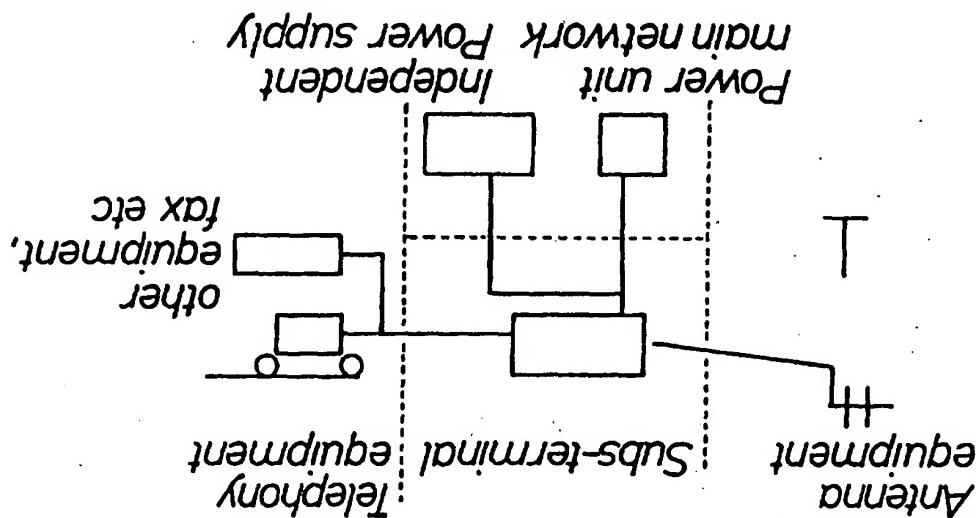


(S7) Abstract



(54) Title: SUBSCRIBER TERMINAL ARRANGEMENT

(51) International Patent Classification n ^o 6 :	WO 97/41699	(43) International Publication Date:	6 November 1997 (96.11.06)
(11) International Publication Number:	PCT/SE97/00503	(43) International Publication Date:	24 March 1997 (24.03.97)
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(22) International Filing Date:	24 March 1997 (24.03.97)	(71) Application for all designated States except US:	DESIGN INNOVATION AB [SE/SE]; P.O. Box 1223, S-164 28 Kista (SE).
(21) International Application Number:	PCT/SE97/00503	(72) Inventors and Applicants (for US only):	JOHNSON, Torbjörn With international search report.
(74) Agents:	AB, P.O. Box 4289, S-203 14 Malmö (SE).	(74) Agents:	Martini [SE/SE]; Vallmovägen 23, S-191 43 Sollebruna (SE).
(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only):	JOHNSON, Torbjörn With international search report.	(74) Agents:	Holmqvist AB, P.O. Box 4289, S-203 14 Malmö (SE).

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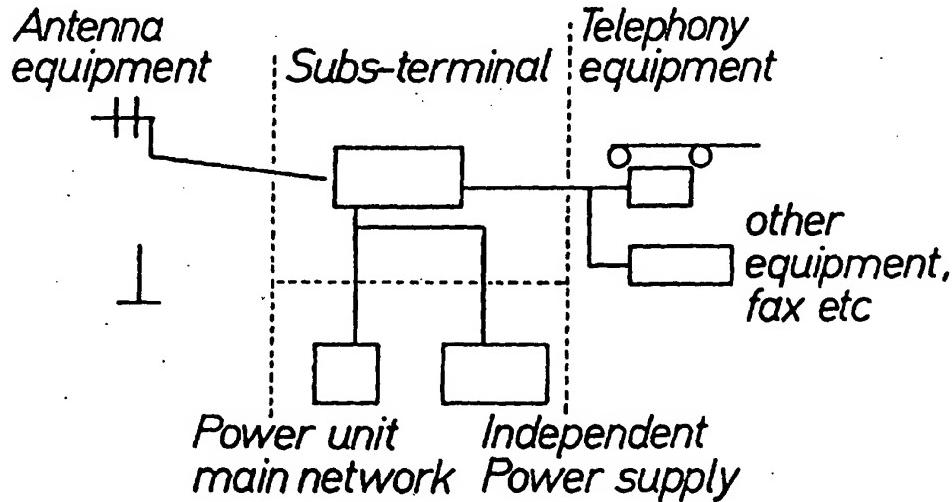
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<p>Published With international search report.</p>		

(54) Title: SUBSCRIBER TERMINAL ARRANGEMENT



(57) Abstract

The invention relates to a subscriber terminal arrangement in a telecommunication system utilizing radio in the local loop. According to the invention, the arrangement comprises a subscriber terminal comprising a low power radio part, a pulse code modulation air interface and a low power paging channel for the call set-up procedure, a power supply part, and a user terminal comprising a hand-set and a dialling device. Ordinary telephone equipment, telephone fax, answering machine, data modem, PCs etc, may be connected to the subscriber terminal. In some cases the radio parts and telephony parts would be integrated in the same unit. The power supply part may be connected to an independent power supply unit comprising a power generator, e.g. solar panels and/or a wind generator, rechargeable batteries, and a control unit for controlling the charging procedure. The air interface is capable of supporting 64 kb/s PCM coding offering high quality audio, and/or variable data rates up to 64 kb/s.

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TITLE OF INVENTION: SUBSCRIBER TERMINAL ARRANGEMENT

10

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a subscriber terminal arrangement in a telecommunication system utilizing radio in the local loop. Radio in the Local Loop (RLL) is, substituting the copper lines in the local loop, the part of the network which is between the local exchange and the subscriber at home, with radio. The market for these applications is enormous, especially in the new growing economies like Far East, Russia and Brazil. Another growing market is the industrial countries where radio is the best solution for a new operator to compete with services in the local loop. Fixed subscriber terminals mean terminals which are not designed for mobility purpose. The terminal is placed in the home, office etc. and can be moved in the premises but not like hand held portable telephone. Ordinary telephone equipment, telephone fax, answering machine, data modem, PCs etc, could be connected to the terminal. In some cases the radio parts and telephony parts would be integrated in the same unit.

30

STATE OF THE ART

Today there are two main categories of radio subscriber terminals; for mobile use and fixed telephones connected to ordinary fixed network for telephony (POTS, Plain Ordinary Telephone System).

Today's radio subscriber terminals are power-consuming, expensive (due to standardized POTS interface), bad audio quality, no variable data rates etc. When the receiver is lifted there is a long delay before the dial tone is given. When mobile telephones are used, the subscriber have to

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5

TITLE OF INVENTION: SUBSCRIBER TERMINAL ARRANGEMENT

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The present invention relates to a subscriber terminal arrangement in a telecommunication system utilizing radio in the local loop. Radio in the Local Loop (RLL) is, substituting the copper lines in the local loop, the part of the network which is between the local exchange and the subscriber at home, with radio. The market for these applications is enormous, especially in the new growing economies like Far East, Russia and Brazil. Another growing market is the industrial countries where radio is the best solution for a new operator to compete with services in the local loop. Fixed subscriber terminals mean terminals which are not designed for mobility purpose. The terminal is placed in the home, office etc. and can be moved in the premises but not like hand held portable telephone. Ordinary telephone equipment, telephone fax, answering machine, data modem, PCs etc, could be connected to the terminal. In some cases the radio parts and telephony parts would be integrated in the same unit.

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Today there are two main categories of radio subscriber terminals; for mobile use and fixed telephones connected to ordinary fixed network for telephony (POTS, Plain Ordinary 35. Telephony System).

Today's radio subscriber terminals are power-consuming, expensive (due to standardized POTS interface), bad audio quality, no variable data rates etc. When the receiver is lifted there is a long delay before the dial tone is given.

40 When mobile telephones are used, the subscriber have to

- enter the number and thereafter have access to the radio channel (the send button is pressed).

The present invention solves the above-mentioned problem by providing an improved subscriber terminal arrangement.

5 The unique features of the subscriber terminals are based on:

- 64 kb/s PCM coding, (Pulse Code Modulation) which can offer:

10 + high quality audio 7, 2 kHz bandwidth compared with today's 3,1 kHz bandwidth for today's POTS (Plain Ordinary Telephony System)

+ by multiplexing several (3-4) PCM channels, high quality hi-fi audio is offered

15 + variable data bit rates up to 64 kb/s

+ multiplexing of PCM channels to offer ISDN BRA, Integrated Services Digital Network, Basic Rate Access

- a simplified version of POTS without local switch and

20 multi-user terminals with internal switch functionality in order to reduce the capacity requirement on the network.

25 - an independent power supply unit where there is no need of external power supply

- low power paging channel giving:

+ low power consumption

+ no delay for giving dial tone when receiver is lifted

30 - an integrated radio head in the antenna

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Thus, the present invention provides a subscriber terminal arrangement in a telecommunication system utilizing radio in the local loop.

According to the invention, the arrangement comprises a subscriber terminal comprising a low power radio part, a pulse code modulation air interface and a low power paging channel for the call set-up procedure; a power supply part,

2 3

and a user terminal comprising a hand-set and a dialling device.

The invention is set forth in detail in the accompanying claims.

5

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention is described below with reference to the attached drawings, in which

Figure 1 is a block diagram of a first embodiment of the invention for ordinary POTS;

Figure 2 is a block diagram of a second embodiment of the invention in which the subscriber terminal equipment and the telephony equipment are integrated in the same physical unit;

15 Figure 3 is a block diagram of a third embodiment of the invention in which the radio part and the power supply unit are integrated in the same unit;

Figure 4 is a block diagram of a fourth embodiment of the invention including a multi-subscriber terminal; and

20 Figure 5 is a block diagram of a further embodiment of the invention in which the RF part is integrated with the antenna.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

25 There are two main groups of digital radio fixed subscriber terminals:

- the single user terminal family,
- a multi-user terminal family

30 All the terminals are based on low power radio with 0,1 W output. Both families could either be connected to an ordinary power supply unit, utilising the mains power supply, or an independent power supply unit. This unit is utilising solar/wind energy and rechargeable batteries. All terminals are utilising a low power paging channel for implementing

35 the alert function. This sleep mode function, results in very low power consumption between calls. Therefore, the terminals could be used with powering from only solar/wind energy and batteries. The paging channel will be used in the call set up procedure, i.e. the dialled number will transferred 40, immediately to the network at the same time as the radio

speech channels is allocated. This will result in no delay when the receiver is lifted and an immediate dial tone is given.

The paging function is similar to the POGSAG defacto standard which is capable to transfer 512 baud. For easy customer installation, the terminals are equipped with a LED indicator, showing red (no radio reception), yellow (not enough reception) and green (good radio reception).

In Figure 2, an embodiment of the single-subscriber terminal family is shown.

As may be seen from Figure 1, the copper lines of an ordinary telephone network is replaced by an antenna equipment. The antenna equipment is connected to a subscriber terminal (Subs-terminal) which in turn is connected to the telephony equipment. The subscriber terminal includes the radio.

The terminal family is based on a digital radio with 0,1 W output. The service is based on 64 kb/s PCM coded radio channels. The telephony equipment at least consists of a hand-set and a dialling device, such as a key-pad.

The following services would be offered:

- Ordinary POTS; including DTMF signalling (Dual Tone Multifrequency)
 - Data over modem; 9,6, 14,4, 28,8 up to 64 kbit/s
 - Dedicated data up to 64 kb/s

The ordinary telephone equipment is connected to a line interface (CCITT recommendation) which would be able to support an ordinary ringing generator and 2000 meter 2 wire copper cable i.e. 2/4 wire ordinary line interface.

30 There are three different versions of antenna installations:

- 35 - an antenna connected directly to the user terminal
(omnidirectional, radiation in all directions)
- a separate antenna which could be placed in the window
(omni/directional, radiation in a specific direction)
- an outdoor roof or wall/roof mounted antenna
(directional)

There is an antenna connector at the subscriber terminal for connection of different types of antenna alternatives.

40 The present invention also provides a simplified sub-

scriber terminal; "Proprietary POTS". There are three different versions:

Version 1.

The main difference is the subscriber telephone equipment. One possibility is a telephony equipment, which is specially adapted to the subscriber terminal, without ringing generator and no lightning protection i., e., no standard POTS interface. The ringing signal is generated by a piezoelectric ringer in the hand-set. This would lead to a less complex implementation and therefore a reduction in cost because there is no standard line interface circuitry. The distance between the radio subscriber terminal and proprietary telephone equipment is maximum 50 meters. The power supply is 2 W DC. This solution would need a proprietary telephone equipment.

The same services as above is offered.

Version 2 is proprietary equipment and external.

Another version is where the subscriber terminal equipment and the telephony equipment are integrated in the same physical unit. In order to save cost through simplicity there is no external line interface at all. The implementation is shown in Figure 2.e

25

Version 3 is a separate unit.

There is one version where the radio part and power equipment are integrated in the same unit. This unit should be plugged directly into the wall. There are three input/output connections for: external antenna connection, a connection for the telephone equipment and one for DC input (battery backup or in case of no main supply) see Figure 3.

There are two different versions of antenna installations:

- 35 - a separate antenna which could be placed in the window (omni/directional, radiation in a specific direction)
- an outdoor roof or wall/roof mounted antenna (directional)

There is an antenna connector at the radio terminal for connection of different antenna alternatives.

One embodiment of the invention features a radio terminal which would provide ISDN Basic Rate Access, BRA. As an alternative the terminal can offer two ordinary POTS lines in accordance with the first embodiment.

5 Similarly, there are three different versions of antennas.

The invention provides a multi-subscriber family suitable for apartment buildings or offices, where it is desired to connect several user terminals.

10 This terminal family is also based on low power radio with 0,1 W output. The service is based on 64 kb/s PCM coded radio channel. There will be three different sizes serving up to 4, 8, 16 and 16-32 subscribers. All versions would provide the following services:

- 15 - Ordinary POTS
- Data over modem; 9,6, 14,4 28,8 up to 64 kbit/s
- Dedicated data up to 64 kb/s
- One version combining ISDN and POTS.

20 The later could in a flexible way be tailored for 16-32 subscribers. Depending on the number of subscribers there are 16-32 64 kb/s PCM radio channels which will basically serve up to 32 subscribers. There would even be a version which would be utilising concentration i. e. there are fewer
25 radio channel connections than the number of subscribers connected to the terminal. For example 30 PCM channels can support 290 customers (Traffic requirements: 70 mE/customer, 0,01 % blocking).

The principles of the multi-subscriber terminal family
30 is shown in Figure 4:

In order to not be independent of mains power supply (from the electricity company) there should be an option where the user terminals are connected to an independent power supply unit. The unit consists of:

- 35 - Power generator; solar panels or/and wind generator
- rechargeable batteries
- control unit, controlling the charging procedure

40 There would be one terminal version where the radio

7

frequency parts (RF parts) are moved from the subscriber terminal unit and are integrated together with the antenna. The radio parts in the RF unit are DC powered (Direct Current) by the subscriber terminal via the antenna cable.

5 Thus, the present invention provides an improved subscriber terminal arrangement having the advantages stated above. Of course, many variations and modifications as well as combinations of the disclosed embodiments will be recognized by a person skilled in the art. The invention is only
10 restricted by the claims below.

and the 1970s in particular, had a significant impact on the growth of the U.S. economy.

19. 10. 1990. 10:00 AM. 100% of the area was covered by dense vegetation. The ground surface was covered by a thick layer of leaf litter.

1962-1963 growing and 1963-1964. From January until April
1963, we attempted to measure off the ground at approximately
100 cm. intervals along the same three MDS transects as in 1962.
However, it was now found that many species had increased
in size and/or had proliferated. By March 1963, the
transects had to be shifted and moved to the right to
keep them from being inundated by the rising water.
This was done in early April 1963.

10. The following table shows the number of cases of smallpox reported by the State Health Department during the year 1910.

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CLAIMS

1. A subscriber terminal arrangement in a telecommunication system utilizing radio in the local loop, characterised by a subscriber terminal comprising a low power radio part, a pulse code modulation (PCM) air interface, and a low power paging channel for the call set-up procedure, a power supply part, and a user terminal comprising a hand-set and a dialling device.
2. An arrangement according to claim 1, characterised by a standard (e.g. CCITT) line interface between the subscriber terminal and the user terminal, the interface supporting a ringing generator and a two wire copper cable.
3. An arrangement according to claim 1, characterised by a simple two wire connection between the subscriber terminal and the user terminal, the user terminal further including a piezoelectric ringer.
4. An arrangement according to claim 1, characterised in that the subscriber terminal and the user terminal are integrated in the same unit.
5. An arrangement according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the power supply part is integrated in the subscriber terminal.
6. An arrangement according to claim 1, characterised in that the subscriber terminal includes an interface for connecting a number of user terminals, e.g. up to 4, 8, 16, 32 or more.
7. An arrangement according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised by concentration in the radio part for supporting a greater number of user terminals than the number of radio channels.
8. An arrangement according to any one of claims 1 to 5, characterised in that an omnidirectional antenna is connected directly to the user terminal.
9. An arrangement according to any one of claims 1 to 7, characterised in that a separate antenna is connected to the subscriber terminal, e.g. directly on the subscriber terminal or via lines to a window, wall or roof mounted antenna.
10. An arrangement according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the power supply

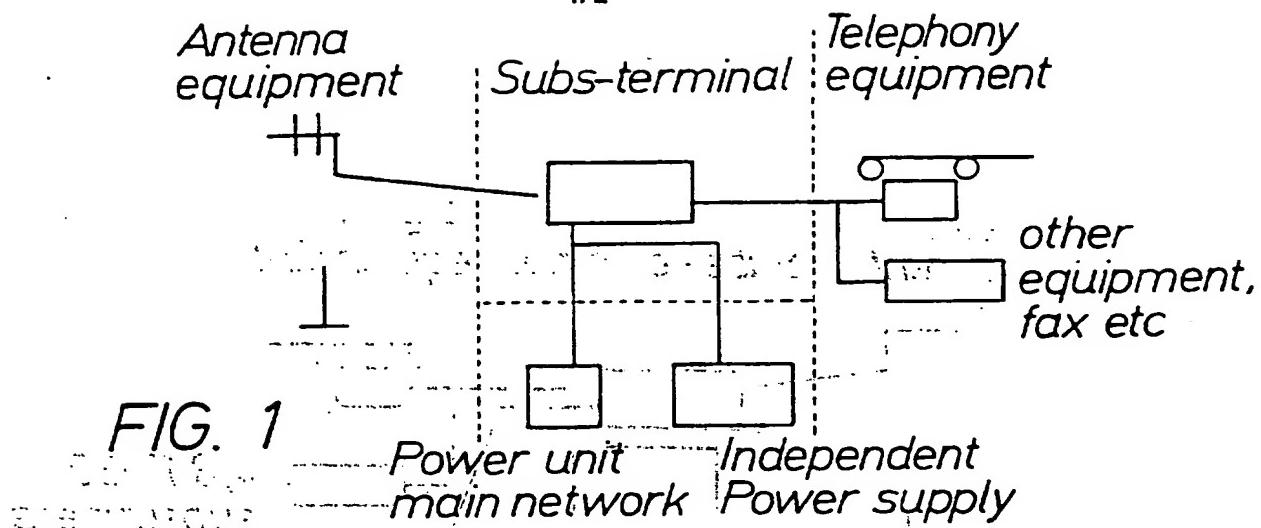
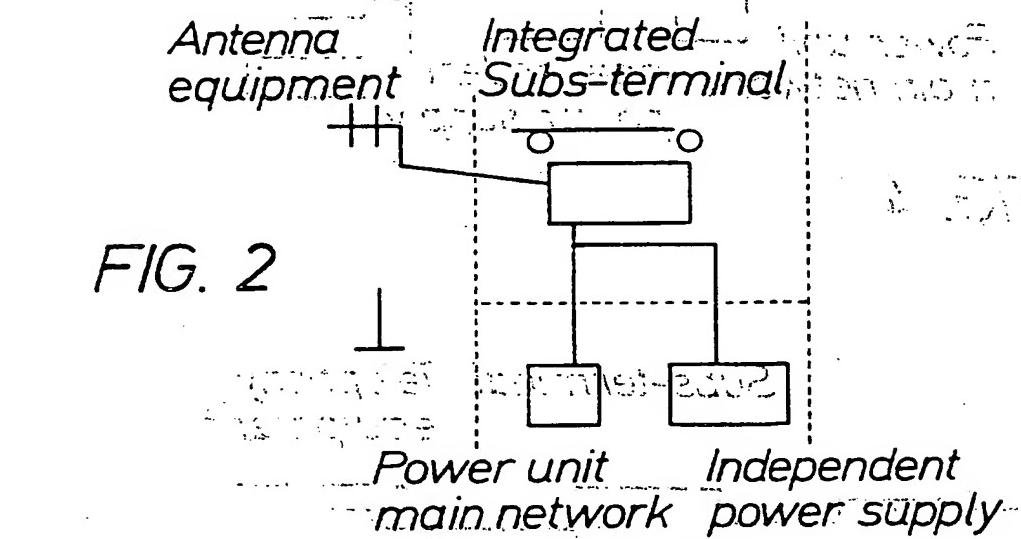
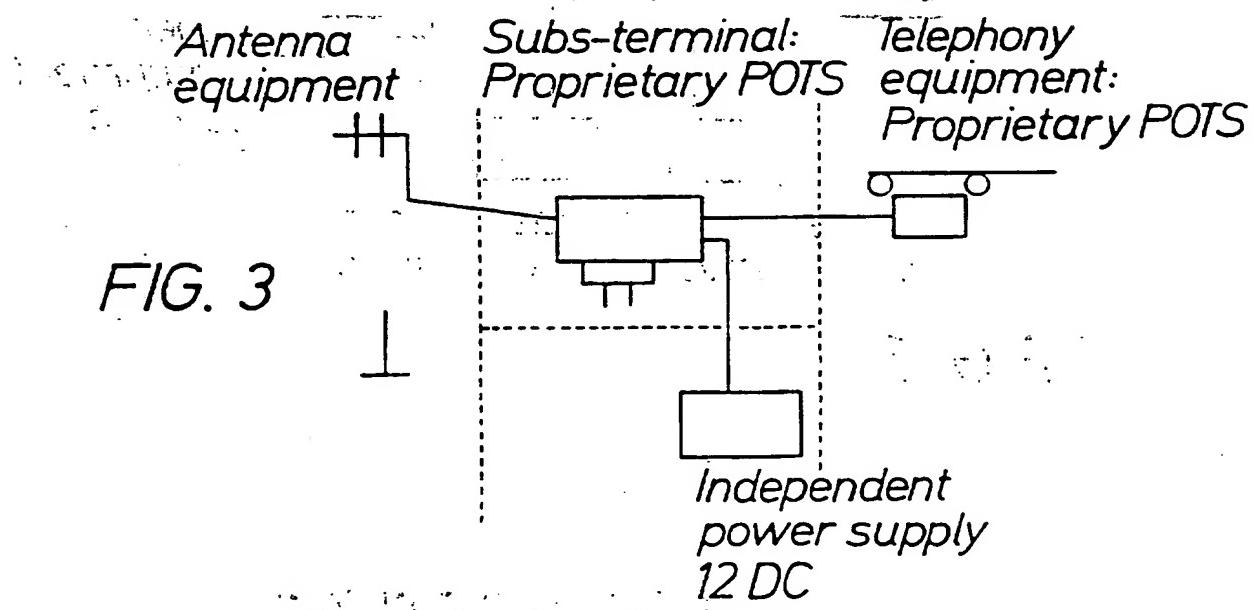
part is connected to an independent power supply unit comprising a power generator, e.g., solar panels and/or a wind generator, rechargeable batteries, and a control unit for controlling the charging procedure.

- 5 11. An arrangement according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the air interface is capable of supporting 64 kb/s PCM coding offering high quality audio, and/or variable data rates up to 64 kb/s.

10 12. An arrangement according to claim 11, characterised in that the air interface is capable of multiplexing several PCM channels offering hi-fi audio, or ISDN basic rate access (BRA).

15 13. An arrangement according to any one of claims 1-3, 5-7, and 9-12, characterised in that the RF unit of the radio part is integrated with an antenna, the RF unit being powered from the subscriber terminal by an antenna cable.

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**FIG. 2****FIG. 3****SUBSTITUTE SHEET**

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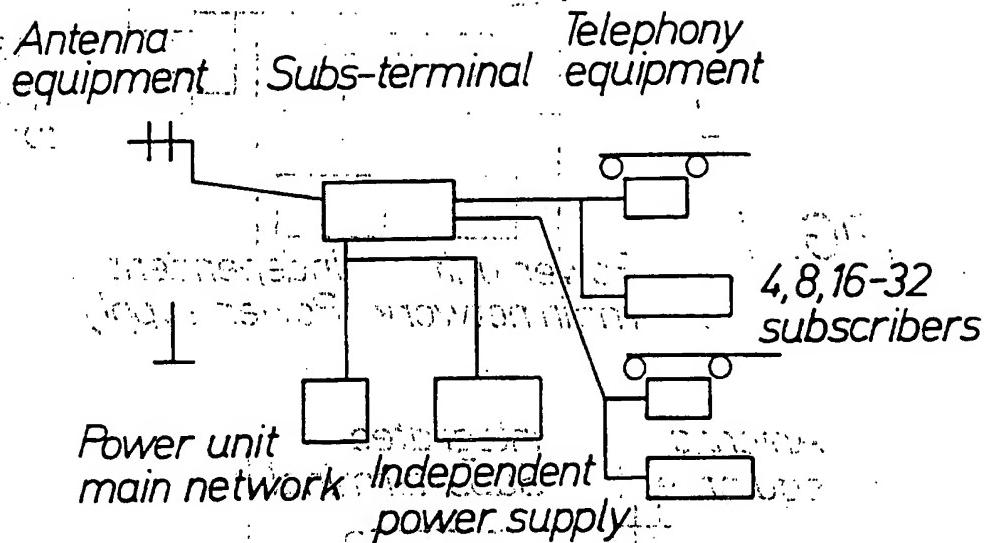


FIG. 4

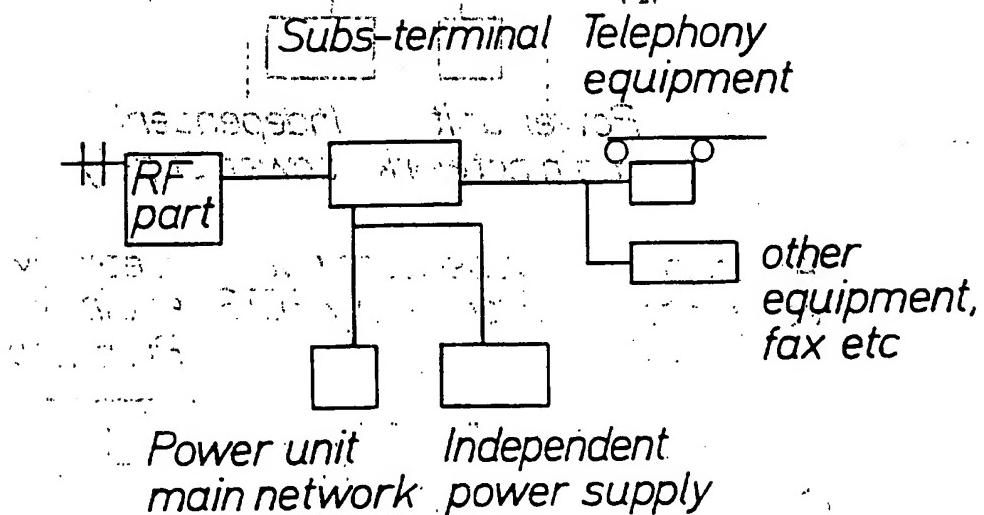


FIG. 5

SUBSTITUTE SHEET

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 97/00503

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC6: H04Q 7/24

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC6: H04Q, H04L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE, DK, FI, NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	EP 0583233 A2 (HUGHES AIRCRAFT COMPANY), 16 February 1994 (16.02.94), column 6, line 4 - line 22; column 17, line 5 - line 12, abstract --	1-9, 10
Y	GB 2230162 A (MITSUBISHI DENKI KABUSHIKI KAISHA), 10 October 1990 (10.10.90), page 5, line 18 - page 7, line 2 --	1-9, 10
Y	US 5444867 A (KUNIYOSHI MARUI ET AL), 22 August 1995 (22.08.95), column 1, line 39 - line 54; column 2, line 16 - line 28 --	10

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

- * Special categories of cited documents:
- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/
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Box 5055, S-102 42 STOCKHOLM
Facsimile N : +46 8 666 02 86

Authorized officer

Peter Hedman
Telephone No. +46 8 782 25 00

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 97/00503

C (Continuation): DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 9419877 A1 (TELEFONAKTIEBOLAGET LM ERICSSON), 1 Sept 1994 (01.09.94), page 7, line 13 - page 8, line 19; page 10, line 18 - line 29	1-6, 8, 9

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH AUTHORITY

PCT/SE 97/00503

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. Claims Nos.: 7, 11-13 because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
Neither the description, nor the claims comprise any characteristic details on how the arrangements mentioned in claims 7, 11, 12 and 13 are supposed to be realized.
3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest



The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.



No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

01/07/97

International application No.

PCT/SE 97/00503

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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19. 1. 1962. 100% of the seedlings were healthy and had good root systems.

100% of the patients had a history of smoking, 75% were male, and 50% were non-Hispanic white. The mean age was 54 years (range 21-81). The mean pack-year history was 35 (range 1-100). The mean serum cotinine level was 13.9 ng/mL (range 0.0-100.0). The mean serum nicotine level was 0.98 ng/mL (range 0.0-10.0). The mean serum carbon monoxide level was 10.7 mg/dL (range 0.0-100.0). The mean serum thiocyanate level was 1.67 mmol/L (range 0.0-10.0).

It is a well known fact that the number of individuals of a species which can be supported by a given area is limited by the amount of food available.

	Mean	SD	Min	Max
1.0	0.010	0.002	-0.002	0.020
2.0	0.010	0.002	-0.002	0.020
3.0	0.010	0.002	-0.002	0.020

REFERENCES

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This image shows a severely damaged document page. The paper is off-white with dark, irregular smudges and stains covering most of the surface. There are faint, illegible markings that appear to be bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. A prominent, large rectangular smudge is located in the upper right quadrant. The overall quality is very poor, making any original text or figures completely unreadable.

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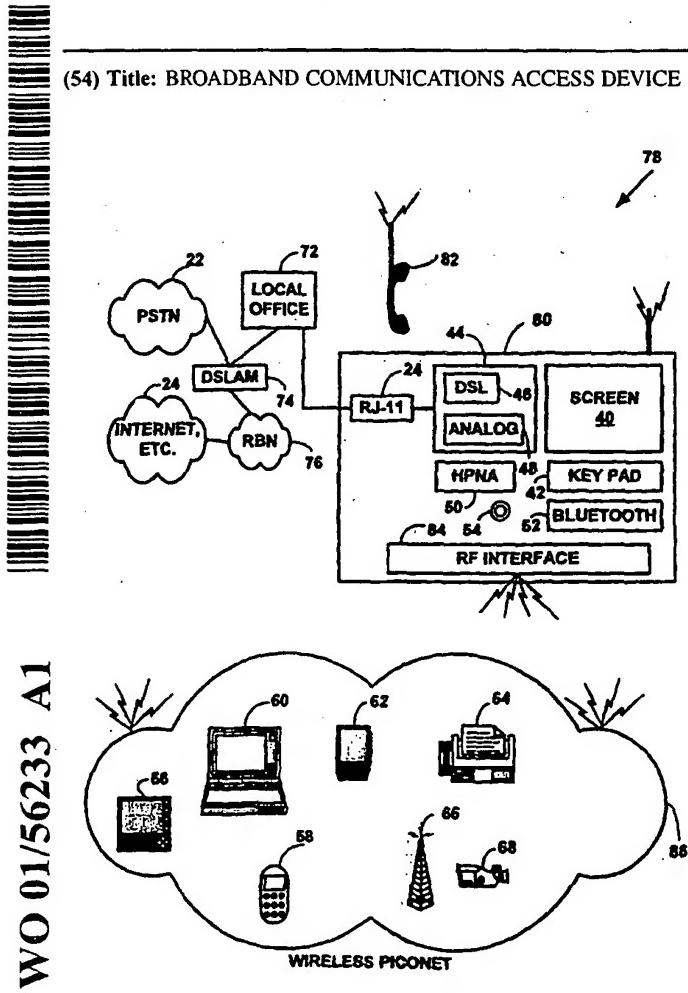
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- (71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): **AEPTEC MICROSYSTEMS INC.** [US/US]; Suite 290, 15800 Crabb's Branch Way, Rockville, MD 20855 (US).
- (72) Inventors; and
(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): **CHEN, Steven, Chien-Young** [US/US]; 7404 Deerpoint Road, Derwood, MD 20855 (US). **WANG, Ray** [US/US]; 6875 Churchill road, McLean, VA 22101 (US).
- (74) Agent: **LESAVICH, Stephen**; McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff, Suite 3200, 300 South Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606 (US).
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: BROADBAND COMMUNICATIONS ACCESS DEVICE



(57) Abstract: An integrated phone-based home gateway system is disclosed. The integrated phone-based home gateway system includes a broadband communication device, such as digital subscriber line ("DSL") device, an analog modem, a wireless interface, integrated into a screen-phone for providing broadband communication service to home users. Multiple home users are able to access the Internet and the content services for conducting e-commerce, receiving content news, entertaining on-demand, making audio or video communications, and telecommuting or working at home. This screen-phone based, modular, plug-n-play home gateway interface allows in-home as well as to-home networking, provides automatic data and broadband initialization, configuration and service provisioning, routing and bridging functionality and allows resource sharing among home devices via the existing phone wire, wireless, coaxial or optical cable connections.

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Check the International Preliminary Examination Report for translation into English.

See page 203.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

The International Search Report and the International Preliminary Examination Report are not part of the patent document.

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BROADBAND COMMUNICATIONS ACCESS DEVICE

CROSS REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

5 This application claims priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application Nos. 60/179,942, filed on January 31, 2000, and 60/189,870, filed on March 16, 2000, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

10 This invention relates to communications devices. More specifically it relates to a broadband communications devices including phone-based home gateway interfaces.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

With the advent of the communication technologies and breakthroughs in Digital Signal Processing (“DSP”), Digital Subscriber Lines (“DSL”), fiber optic and coaxial cable and wireless connections, more bandwidth is now available for home communications than was once provided by traditional voice-grade analog modems.

20 There is widespread interest among home users in faster access to content provided by service providers via high-speed facilities such as DSL, cable, or wireless connections.

This interest appears to be driving the evolution of the home communications from narrow-band communications to broadband communications. As is known in the art, broadband communications include communications signals that are typically transmitted over separate inbound and outbound channels. Network devices on a broadband network are connected by copper, coaxial or fiber-optic cable or wireless

connections that can carry data, voice, and video simultaneously. Broadband communications are capable of high-speed operation (e.g., megabits-per-second, ("Mbps")).

There are a number of problems associated with providing broadband

- 5 communications to the home environment. One problem is that before DSL,
broadband access via shared Local Area Network ("LAN"), Frame Relay,
Asynchronous Transmission Mode ("ATM") or other broadband communications
services had only been used in commercial or business environment. Most to-home
communications are narrow-band and use either Integrated Service Digital Network
("ISDN") line or analog modems.

Another problem is that broadband communications are operationally

- complex. Broadband communications typically include a large number of broadband communications parameters that must be configured before a broadband communications application can be used. Service provisioning is also required to use broadband communications. As is known in the art, service provisioning includes allocating, configuring and maintaining multiple transmission channels and virtual communications paths used for broadband communications.

Normally, in the commercial or business environment, trained professionals are required to manage such complexity. It is undesirable however, to have trained networking personnel managing a home network. It may also be unreasonable to expect any home user to have enough networking experience to configure and provision broadband communications in the home environment.

Another problem is that it is becoming common for home users to have small office or home office ("SOHO") home networks. Such home networks typically include one or more personal computers, printers, facsimile machines, mobile

phones, personal data assistants ("PDA") that are all connected in the home and to another networks such as the Internet. The home networks typically require gateway, router or bridge functionality to allow devices connected to the home network to communicate over data connections (e.g., Internet Protocol ("IP")) with other devices connected to the Internet.

As is known in the art, a gateway connects computer networks using different network protocols and/or operating at different transmission capacities. A router receives transmitted messages and forwards them to their correct destinations over the most efficient available route. A bridge is a device that connects networks using the same communications protocols so that information can be passed from one network device to another.

Such gateway, router or bridge functionality typically requires configuration, initialization and management of various gateway, routing or bridging tables. It may also be unreasonable to expect any home user to have enough networking experience to configure, initialize or manage such tables in the home environment.

Another problem is that for many home users do not have the physical space to include additional modules or equipment that is used as a home gateway. The home users also may not have the additional wired or wireless connections available to connect a home gateway (e.g., an additional telephone line).

Another problem is that many home users desire to use home gateway functionality, but already have existing phone systems. Many existing phone systems are incompatible with, and cannot be used with products that may offer any type of home gateway functionality.

Another problem is that many devices used on a home network are wireless. It is often necessary to connect such wireless devices to a broadband

communications path.

Another problem is that most broadband communication devices allow to-home networking, but do not allow in-home networking with other devices connected to a home network. It is often necessary to provide broadband communications for to-home and in-home networking.

Thus, it is desirable to provide broadband communications to the home environment in a device that overcomes the problems described herein and other problems associated with providing broadband communications to the home.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with preferred embodiments of the present invention, some of the problems associated with providing broadband communications to the home environment are overcome. An integrated phone-based home gateway system is disclosed.

The integrated phone-based home gateway system includes, but is not limited to a home gateway interface for initializing broadband communications service configurations and provisions and for providing routing or bridging for networking communications, a communications interface for connecting to one or more networks, for providing data communications, for providing broadband communications and for providing narrow band communications including voice communications, a processor for processing information from the one or more networks, a display interface for displaying the information from the one or more networks; and a wireless communications interface for connecting to external wireless devices. The integrated phone-based home gateway system may further include a portable multi-function handset.

However, more fewer or equivalent components can also be used in the phone-based home gateway interface and the present invention is not limited to these components.

The integrated phone-based home gateway system described herein may be used as conventional telephony device, a broadband home gateway, a wireless local loop home gateway, a set-top box for a cable television access as well as for other communications functionality in one integrated device. The integrated phone-based home gateway system may help hide both data (e.g., Internet Protocol) and

broadband (e.g., DSL, cable, wireless, etc.) service configuration and provisioning complexity from home users by providing automatic establishment of communications channels and automatic provisioning and initialization of broadband, data, routing, bridging and other communication parameters.

5 The foregoing and other features and advantages of preferred embodiments of the present invention will be more readily apparent from the following detailed description. The detailed description proceeds with references to the accompanying drawings.

10

1. A method for establishing a communications channel between a first node and a second node, comprising:

2. Establishing a communications link between the first node and the second node;

3. Determining a communications protocol supported by the first node and supported by the second node;

4. Establishing a communications link between the first node and the second node using the determined communications protocol;

5. Determining a communications parameter supported by the first node and supported by the second node;

6. Establishing a communications link between the first node and the second node using the determined communications parameter;

7. Determining a communications parameter supported by the first node and supported by the second node;

8. Establishing a communications link between the first node and the second node using the determined communications parameter;

9. Determining a communications parameter supported by the first node and supported by the second node;

10. Establishing a communications link between the first node and the second node using the determined communications parameter;

11. Determining a communications parameter supported by the first node and supported by the second node;

12. Establishing a communications link between the first node and the second node using the determined communications parameter;

13. Determining a communications parameter supported by the first node and supported by the second node;

14. Establishing a communications link between the first node and the second node using the determined communications parameter;

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Preferred embodiments of the present invention are described with reference to the following drawings, wherein:

5 FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary phone-based home gateway system;

FIG. 2 is a block diagram illustrating an ADSL component of a phone-based home gateway system;

10 FIG. 3 is a block diagram illustrating an integrated phone-based home gateway system;

FIG. 4 is a block diagram illustrating a wireless, integrated phone-based home gateway system;

FIG. 5 is a block diagram illustrating to-home wireless networking with the wireless, integrated phone-based home gateway system of FIG. 4;

15 FIG. 6A is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary integrated phone-based home gateway interface architecture;

FIG. 6B is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary wireless, integrated phone-based home gateway interface architecture;

20 FIG. 7 is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary phone-based home gateway interface software architecture;

FIG. 8 is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary session manager software architecture;

FIG. 9 is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary service manager software architecture;

25 FIG. 10 is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary interface manager software

architecture;

FIG. 11 is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary display manager software architecture:

FIG. 12 is a block diagram illustrating an integrated phone-based home gateway conversion system for an existing phone system;

FIG. 13 is a flow diagram illustrating a method for initializing communications from a home gateway interface.

10

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS**EXEMPLARY PHONE-BASED HOME GATEWAY SYSTEMS**

FIG. 1 illustrates an exemplary phone-based home gateway system 10 for one exemplary embodiment of the present invention. As is known in the art, a gateway connects computer networks using different network protocols and/or operating at different transmission capacities. The exemplary phone-based home gateway system 10 includes a local area network ("LAN") 12 with one or more network devices 14, 16, two of which are illustrated, and a phone-based home gateway interface 18 with an optional portable telephony handset 20. If the optional portable telephony 20 handset is not used, the phone-based home gateway interface 18 includes a speaker-phone with a built in microphone and speaker for sending and receiving voice information. The network devices 14, 16 include, but are not limited to, personal computers, printers, personal data assistants ("PDAs"), network appliances and other electronic devices.

The phone-based home gateway interface 18 is connected to a public switched telephone network ("PSTN") 22 via one or more twisted pairs of copper wires, coaxial cable, fiber optic cable, other connection media or other connection interfaces such as wireless interfaces. The PSTN 22 is any public switched telephone network provided by AT&T, GTE, Sprint, MCI and others. The phone-based home gateway interface 18 may also be connected to other computer networks 24 such as the Internet, an intranet, etc. via coaxial cable, fiber optic cable other connection media or other connection interfaces such as wireless interfaces.

The phone-based home gateway interface 18 may also be connected to other telephony networks via a wireless local loop. The network devices 14, 16 are connected to LAN 12 with RJ-11 interfaces 24. As is known in the art, a Registered Jack-11 ("RJ-11") interface is a four or six-wire connector used primarily to connect

network devices to telephony equipment and to local area networks.

However, the present invention is not limited to such an embodiment and more, fewer or equivalent components can also be used in the phone-based home gateway system 10. In addition, the phone-based home gateway interface 18 is illustrated as a separate device from the network devices 14, 16. However, the phone-based home gateway interface 18 may also be an internal component in a network device 14, 16.

Preferred embodiments of the present invention include network devices and home gateway interfaces that are compliant with all or part of standards proposed by the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers ("IEEE"); International Telecommunications Union-Telecommunication Standardization Sector ("ITU"); Internet Engineering Task Force ("IETF"); American National Standard Institute ("ANSI"), Wireless Application Protocol ("WAP") Forum; Bluetooth Forum, or the ADSL Forum. However, network devices based on other standards could also be used. IEEE standards can be found on the World Wide Web at the Universal Resource Locator ("URL") "www.ieee.org." The ITU, (formerly known as the CCITT) standards can be found at the URL "www.itu.ch." IETF standards can be found at the URL "www.ietf.org." The ANSI standards can be found at the URL "www.ansi.org." Bluetooth Forum documents can be found at the URL "www.bluetooth.com." WAP Forum documents can be found at the URL "www.wapforum.org." ADSL Forum documents can be found at the URL "www.adsl.com."

An operating environment for network devices and home gateway interfaces of the present invention include a processing system with one or more high speed Central Processing Unit(s) ("CPU") and a memory. In accordance with the practices of persons skilled in the art of computer programming, the present invention is

described below with reference to acts and symbolic representations of operations or instructions that are performed by the processing system, unless indicated otherwise.

Such acts and operations or instructions are referred to as being "computer-executed," "CPU executed" or "processor executed."

5 It will be appreciated that acts and symbolically represented operations or instructions include the manipulation of electrical signals by the CPU. An electrical system represents data bits which cause a resulting transformation or reduction of the electrical signals, and the maintenance of data bits at memory locations in a memory system to thereby reconfigure or otherwise alter the CPU's operation, as well as other 10 processing of signals. The memory locations where data bits are maintained are physical locations that have particular electrical, magnetic, optical, or organic properties corresponding to the data bits.

15 The data bits may also be maintained on a computer readable medium including magnetic disks, optical disks, organic memory, and any other volatile (e.g., Random Access Memory ("RAM")) or non-volatile (e.g., Read-Only Memory ("ROM")) mass storage system readable by the CPU. The computer readable medium includes cooperating or interconnected computer readable medium, which exist exclusively on the processing system or be distributed among multiple interconnected processing systems that may be local or remote to the processing 20 system.

The phone-based home gateway interface 18 provides broadband communications in the megabits-per-second or higher range. The phone-based home gateway interface 18 also provides routing or bridging for networking communications and automatically initializes communications service configurations 25 and provisions communications services. As is known in the art, a router is an

intermediary device on a communications network that expedites message delivery.

A router receives transmitted messages and forwards them to their correct destinations over the most efficient available route. A bridge is a device that connects networks using the same communications protocols so that information can be passed from one network device to another.

The phone-based home gateway interface 18 is connected to the PSTN 22 via one or more high-speed telephony interfaces to provide broadband communications, and/or one or more low-speed telephony interfaces to provide other telephony communications. The phone-based home gateway interface 18 is also connected to the Internet 24, or other computer network via one or more data interfaces, such as Internet Protocol ("IP") interfaces to provide data communications.

As is known in the art, IP is a routing protocol designed to route traffic within a network or between networks. IP is described in IETF RFC-791, incorporated herein by reference. However, the present invention is not limited to IP data interfaces and other data interfaces can also be used.

The phone-based home gateway interface 18 allows multiple home users to access the Internet, other computer networks and content services for conducting e-commerce, receiving content news, entertaining on-demand, making audio or video communications, and telecommuting or working at home. This phone-based home gateway interface 18 allows in-home as well as to-home networking and allows resource sharing among home devices via the existing phone wire, wireless, coaxial or optical cable connections.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram 26 illustrating an Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line ("ADSL") component 28 of the phone-based home gateway interface 18. The ADSL component 28 is illustrated as integral to the phone-based home gateway interface 18.

However, the ADSL component 28 can also be an external or separate component of the phone-based home gateway interface 18.

As is known in the art, ADSL is a communications technology that transmits an asymmetric data stream over a conventional twisted pair of copper telephone wires. An ADSL typically transmits a larger data rate downstream to a subscriber from a telephony switching office than from a subscriber back to the telephony switching office. ADSLs typically transmit about 1.5 Mega bits-per-second ("Mbps") to about 9 Mbps downstream to a subscriber, and about 16 kilo-bps ("kbps") to 640 kbps upstream back to a telephony switching office.

10 However, the phone-based home gateway interface 18 may also include a symmetric, other or equivalent communications component and the present invention is not limited to the ADSL component 28. The ADSL component 28 allows the phone-based home gateway interface 18 to be used to provide broadband, or other faster transmission rates than can be obtained with analog modems over a 15 conventional telephone wire.

An ADSL system typically comprises two asymmetric devices connected by a conventional twisted pair of copper wires. An ADSL Transmission Unit-Central ("ATU-C") is a device at one end of an ADSL connection at a telephony or other switching office on the PSTN 22 or other network. An ADSL Transmission Unit-Remote ("ATU-R") is a device at another end of an ADSL connection at a subscriber or customer site. The ADSL connection can be used either with or without a splitter.

Returning to FIG. 2, the phone-based home gateway interface 18 includes an ADSL terminating unit (ATU-R) 28 that is used to connect the phone-based home gateway interface 18 to the LAN 12. In another embodiment of the present invention, the LAN 12 can also include a 10/100 Base-T Ethernet LAN as is.

illustrated in FIG. 2. As is known in the art, 10/100 Base-T is an Ethernet standard for LANs using twisted-pair cable transmitting at 10 to 100 Mbps. However, the present invention is not limited to such an embodiment, and other or equivalent LANs can also be used. The ATU-R 28 is also used to connect to network devices 5 14, 16 to the PSTN 22 via a peripheral component interconnect ("PCI") 30 bus or a Universal Serial Bus ("USB") 32 connection.

As is known in the art, a PCI is a local bus standard. Most modern computers include a PCI bus 30. PCI is a 64-bit bus, though it is usually implemented as a 32-bit bus. As is known in the art, a USB 32 is an external bus standard that supports 10 data transfer rates of up to 12 Mbps or higher. A single USB port can be used to connect up to 127 peripheral devices such as mice, modems, and keyboards. USB 15 also supports plug-and-play installation and hot plugging. Plug-and-play refers to the ability of a computer system to automatically configure expansion boards and other devices without worrying about setting DIP switches, jumpers and other hardware and software configuration elements.

EXEMPLARY INTEGRATED PHONE-BASED HOME GATEWAY SYSTEM

FIG. 3 is a block diagram illustrating an integrated phone-based home gateway system 34. The integrated phone-based home gateway system 34 includes an integrated, phone-based home gateway interface 36 with an optional portable wireless handset 38, a display screen 40, a key pad 42, a communications interface 44 including a DSL component 46 and an analog component 48, a home phoneline network adapter ("HPNA") component 50, a Bluetooth component 52, and an optional video camera component 54. The integrated phone-based home gateway system 34 also includes one or more processors, one or more banks of memory and one or more software modules (not 20 illustrated in FIG. 3). However, the present invention is not limited to such an 25

embodiment and more, fewer or equivalent components can also be used in the integrated phone-based home gateway system 34. The integrated phone-based home gateway system 34 provides "in-home" as well as "to-home" networking for voice, video and data.

5 The integrated, phone-based home gateway interface 36 may include one or more physical buttons or controls for selecting features of a base station. One or more graphical buttons or controls may also be included on the display screen 40. The integrated, phone-based home gateway interface 36 is modular and allows the components described above and other or equivalent types of components to be easily 10 interchanged.

The integrated, phone-based home gateway interface 36 may include an optional portable wireless telephone handset 38 that allows a user to use the handset 38 in the vicinity of the integrated, phone-based home gateway interface 36. In one embodiment of the present invention, the handset 38 is a 4-in-1 phone set including a 15 cordless phone, mobile phone, web-phone (e.g., for Voice over IP ("VoIP")) and walkie-talkie radio capabilities. However, the present invention is not limited to such an embodiment and other or equivalent handsets can also be used. In addition, the handset 38 can also provide only one, two or three of the 4-in-1 phone set capabilities.

If the optional portable wireless handset 38 is not used, the communications 20 interface 44 may include a speaker-phone with a built in microphone and speaker for sending and receiving voice information. The communications interface 44 may include a speaker-phone whether or not the portable wireless handset 38 is used.

The integrated, phone-based home gateway interface 36 also provides routing or bridging for networking communications, including voice, video and data 25 communications and coordinates establishing, initializing and provisioning

broadband, narrow-band and data communications parameters and channels. In one embodiment of the present invention, this functionality is provided in integrated, phone-based home gateway interface 36 with software modules illustrated in FIGS. 7-11. However, the present invention is not limited to such an embodiment, and this

5 functionality can also be provided in firmware, hardware, or software, or any combination thereof.

The display screen 40 includes a conventional computer display screen, a liquid crystal display screen with color, black and white or grey scale capabilities, or other types of display screens, including touch screens. The display screen 40 is 10 used to display and access voice, video, data and other Internet messages (e.g., e-mail). In one embodiment of the present invention, the display screen 40 is a removable module that can be used as portable wireless hand-held device (e.g., infrared, Bluetooth, other wireless, etc.) in the vicinity of the integrated, phone-based, home gateway interface 36. In one embodiment of the present invention, the display 15 screen 40 is used to display at least one line of real-time stock quote, weather, headline news, community news, electronic address, or other information from the Internet 24. The optional video camera component 54 is used to collect and send data for video conference calls, video e-mail, etc.

The keypad 42 includes a telephone key pad, other numeric keypad, an alpha-20 numeric keypad, other specialized key pad, a keyboard, or other alpha-numeric data entry device. The keypad 42 can include physical devices as well as graphical representations of key pads that are made available on the display screen 40.

The communications interface 44 includes a DSL component 46 and an analog component 48. The DSL component 46 provides broadband 25 communications. The DSL component 46 may include a DSL device with one of

the following interfaces: ADSL, symmetric DSL ("SDSL"), high-bit-rate DSL ("HDSL") or very-high-bit-rate ("VDSL"). The DSL component 46 is integrated inside a phone set, which provides conventional telephony as well as an always-on connectivity to broadband networks, the Internet or other computer networks. The analog component 48 may include analog modems, such as a V.90 56 kbps or other analog modems operating at a different speed or using a different communication protocol than the DSL component 46. In one embodiment of the present invention, the analog component 48 includes using plain old telephone service ("POTS"), and is also integrated inside a phone set for the purpose of providing channel redundancy, 10 broadband service provisioning and configuration.

In one embodiment of the present invention, the communications interface 44 is connected to a POTS splitter that allows the DSL component 46 and the analog component 48 to use the same twisted pairs of telephone lines (See FIG. 6). The POTS splitter may also be used to provide broadband as well as other higher-bandwidth services (e.g., Asynchronous Transport Mode ("ATM"), Optical transmission, Integrated Services Digital Network, ("ISDN"), Frame Relay, etc.) and lower-bandwidth services (e.g., POTS).

The HPNA component 50 provides a convenient and flexible way to interconnect computers and peripherals to a network, including plug-and-play. The 20 HPNA component 50 also enables existing telephone wiring to be used for broadband network access. In addition, HPNAs enable VoIP phones that have Ethernet connectors to interface with non-Ethernet broadband connections. FIG. 3 illustrates network devices 14, 16, comprising a small home network connected to the HPNA 50 via RJ-11 interfaces 24. However, the present invention is not limited to such an embodiment. In addition, the network devices 14, 16 can also be connected 25

using PCI 30 or USB 32 connections (FIG. 2) as was described above.

The Bluetooth component 52 simplifies data synchronization and transmission between network devices and the LAN 12 with a common short-range wireless protocol. As is known in the art, Bluetooth is a short-range radio frequency technology aimed at simplifying communications among network devices and between network devices. Bluetooth wireless technology supports both short-range point-to-point and point-to-multipoint connections. The Bluetooth specification, version 1.0, 1999, is incorporated by reference. In another embodiment of the present invention, the Bluetooth component can be replaced with virtually any other short-range radio interface component.

In one embodiment of the present invention, wired and wireless home electronic or other electronic devices, such as a WEB pad 56, a mobile phone 58, a lap top or notebook computer, a desk top personal computer 60, a PDA 62, smart appliances 64, alarm systems 66, home video monitoring equipment 68, etc. may interface with the integrated phone-based home gateway interface 36 through modular interfaces (e.g., RJ-11 or HPNA interfaces) or Bluetooth wireless interfaces. The wireless devices are connected to the integrated phone-based home gateway interface 36 over a Bluetooth piconet 70 or Bluetooth scatternet using the Bluetooth component 52.

As is known in the art, a "piconet" is a network in which "slave" devices can be set to communicate with a "master" radio controller in one device such as a gateway. Piconets are typically limited to a certain range and vicinity in which wireless devices must be present to operate (e.g., a few feet up to few miles away from the master radio controller). Several "piconets" can be established and linked together in "scatternets" to allow communication among several networks providing

continually flexible configurations.

In one embodiment of the present invention, the communications interface 44 is connected to a local switching office 72 on the PSTN 22 via a RJ-11 jack 24. The RJ-11 jack 24 provides narrow band (e.g., voice) and broadband communications and data communications via the PSTN 22 and Internet 24. The local switching office 72 is connected to a digital subscriber line access multiplexer ("DSLAM") 74, which is in turn in communications with other telephony equipment via the PSTN 22. As is known in the art, a DSLAM concentrates individual voice lines to T1 lines, wireless antenna sites, Private Branch Exchanges ("PBXs"), Optical Network Units ("ONUs") or other carrier systems. The DSLAM 74 may also be connected to a regional broadband network ("RBN") 76, or other broadband or narrow-band voice, video or data networks, which in turn may be communications with other networking equipment on the Internet 24. The integrated phone-based home gateway system 34 provides gateway functionality, broadband communications as well as normal voice telephony to the home environment. The integrated phone-based home gateway interface 36 is a modular, flexible home network appliance, as well as broadband or narrow-band telephony and data communications device that provides in-home as well as to-home networking.

20 EXEMPLARY WIRELESS INTEGRATED PHONE-BASED HOME GATEWAY SYSTEM

FIG. 4 is a block diagram illustrating a wireless, integrated phone-based home gateway system 78. In such an embodiment, the wireless, integrated phone-based home gateway system 78 is typically not connected directly to any other network device with any wires. In one embodiment of the present invention, all connection are wireless,

including those to the PSTN 22 and the Internet 24. In another embodiment of the present invention, all connections to network devices are wireless; however, connections to the PSTN 22 and/or the Internet 24 may be with wires as is illustrated in FIG. 4. However, the present invention is not limited to such embodiments and the 5 wireless, integrated, phone-based home gateway system 78 can also be used with a variety of other connection options.

The wireless, integrated, phone-based home gateway system 78 includes a wireless, integrated phone-based home gateway interface 80 and optional portable wireless telephone handset 82. The wireless, integrated phone-based home gateway 10 interface 80 includes the same components as the integrated phone-based home gateway interface 36 described above for FIG. 3. In addition, the wireless phone-based home gateway interface 80 includes an additional plug-in radio frequency ("RF") interface 84.

In one embodiment of the present invention, the RF interface 84 is an IEEE 15 standard 802.11b wireless interface. However, the present invention is not limited to such an embodiment and other wireless interfaces can also be used. For example, the RF interface can include RF Home and other wireless interfaces. As is known in the art, the IEEE 802.11b standard defines wireless interfaces that provide up to 11 Mbps wireless data transmission to and from wireless devices over short ranges. The IEEE 20 802.11b standard is incorporated herein by reference.

As is known in the art, RF Home is a standard for wireless networking access devices to both local content and the Internet for voice, data and streaming media in home environments. More information on RF Home can be found at the URL "www.homerf.org." RF Home includes the Shared Wireless Access Protocol 25 ("SWAP"). The SWAP specification defines a new common interface protocol that

supports wireless voice and data networking in the home. The RF Home SWAP protocol specification, March 1998, is incorporated herein, by reference.

In one embodiment of the present invention, the RF interface 84 is a short-range RF interface that is capable of communicating with wireless devices over a wireless piconet 86 or wireless scatternet using wireless communications protocols.

In another embodiment of the present invention, the RF interface 78 is a long-range radio interface (e.g., WAP interface) used for communicating with wireless devices on wireless networks outside the range of a wireless piconet 80. In yet another embodiment of the present invention, the RF interface 78 includes both short-range and long-range RF interfaces. However, the RF interface 78 can be virtually any other or equivalent short-range or long-range RF interface and the present invention is not limited to the short-range or long-range RF interfaces described.

FIG. 5 is a block diagram illustrating "to-home" wireless networking 88 with the phone-based, integrated, wireless phone-based home gateway system 78. The wireless, integrated, phone-based home gateway system 78 can be used to provide long range to-home wireless networking as well as long range in-home wireless networking with wireless protocols.

For example, the wireless, integrated, phone-based home gateway interface 80 can be in communications with a WAP gateway 90 to provide long-range to-home wireless networking at the wireless, integrated phone-based home gateway interface 80 from a WAP enabled devices 92 or other long-range wireless devices via a wireless wide-area network ("WAN") 94. The "Wireless Application Protocol Architecture Specification", by the Wireless Application Protocol Forum, WAP-100-WAPArch-1998-0430-a, April 1998, is incorporated herein by reference. The wireless wide-area network 88 allows devices outside a certain range and vicinity (e.g., greater than a few

miles and/or outside the range of a piconet) to be in communications with the wireless, integrated phone-based home gateway interface 80.

The wireless, integrated phone-based home gateway system 78 provides gateway functionality, broadband communications, short-range and/or long-range wireless communications, as well as normal voice telephony to the home environment. The wireless, integrated, phone-based home gateway interface 80 is a modular, flexible home network appliance, as well as broadband telephony and data communications device that provides short-range and long-range wireless in-home as well as to-home networking.

10 EXEMPLARY INTEGRATED PHONE-BASED HOME GATEWAY SYSTEM

HARDWARE ARCHITECTURE

FIG. 6A is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary integrated phone-based home gateway interface hardware architecture 100. FIG. 6B is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary wireless, integrated phone-based home gateway interface hardware architecture 100'. The exemplary phone-based home gateway interface architecture 100 illustrated in FIG. 6A is used with the integrated phone-based home gateway interface 36 (FIG. 3). The exemplary wireless, integrated phone-based home gateway interface hardware architecture 100' is used with the wireless, integrated phone-based home gateway interface 80 (FIG. 4).

20 The exemplary integrated phone-based home gateway interface architecture 100 includes a receive and transmit or transceiver ("XCIVER") buffer 102, an ADSL ATU-R 104, a splitter 106 including a high-pass filter and a low-pass filter, a POTS telephone module 108 and a RJ-11 interface 110. An expansion header (not illustrated) may also be used between the ATU-R 104 and the XCIVER buffer 102.

25 The POTS telephone module 108 may include an analog V.90 59K modem,

other analog or digital modem and/or a 900 MHz-2.4 GHz cordless phone module (Not illustrated in FIG. 6A). The POTS telephone module 108 is connected to a universal asynchronous receiver-transmitter ("UART") 112, which is turn connected to an integrated communications micro-controller 114.

5 An ADSL system typically includes one or more splitters 106. The splitter 106 is a filter that separates high frequency and low frequency telephony signals. A splitter may be integrated the ATU-R 104, physically separated from ATU-R 104, and may be divided between high pass and low pass functionality as is illustrated in FIG. 6A.

10 In one exemplary preferred embodiment of the present invention, the ADSL ATU-R 104 is used with the splitter 106 and is compliant with the ANSI standard "Network and Customer Installation Interfaces - Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) Metallic interface," ANSI-T1.413-1995; and the ITU standards "Asymmetrical digital subscriber line (ADSL) transceiver," ITU-G.992.1, 1999, the contents of which are incorporated by reference.

15 In another exemplary preferred embodiment of the present invention, the ADSL ATU-R 104 is used without splitter 106. A splitterless ADSL system typically delivers a maximum downstream bandwidth of about 1.4 Mbps, but is less sensitive to noise and other transmission problems typically encountered by ADSL systems that use splitters. The splitterless ADSL standard is called "G-lite." In such a splitterless embodiment, the ADSL ATU-R 104 is compliant with the ANSI-T1.413-1995 standard and the ITU-T "Splitterless Asymmetrical Digital Subscriber Line Transceivers," ITU-G.992.2-1999, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

20 25 In another embodiment of the present invention, the ADSL ATU-R 104 is

replaced with a high-speed wireless interface 107 as is illustrated in FIG. 6B. This high-speed wireless interface 107 provides a "wireless local loop" ("WLP") for use in wireless, integrated, phone-based home gateway interface 84 (FIG. 4), to provide in-home and as well as to-home wireless networking. In one embodiment of the present invention, the high-speed wireless interface is an IEEE 802.11b wireless interface. However, the present invention is not limited to such a wireless interface, and the high-speed wireless interface 107 include other or equivalent short-range or long-range wireless interfaces.

In such an embodiment, the high-speed wireless interface 107 is used without the ADSL ATU-R 104, but in combination with the RJ-11 interface 110 and the POTS telephone module 108. In such an embodiment, the RJ-11 interface 110 and the POTS telephone module 108 are used to provide service provisioning and voice calls via the PSTN 22 that can be connected to other wireless devices via the high-speed wireless interface 107. In such an embodiment, the high-speed wireless interface 107 is also connected to the POTS telephone module 110.

In yet another embodiment of the present invention (not illustrated in FIG. 6), the high-speed wireless interface 107 is used in combination with the ADSL ATU-R 94, the RJ-11 interface 108 and the POTS telephone module 110 to provide both wireless and wired access to integrated, phone-based home gateway interface 36 (FIG. 3). For one skilled in the art, various other combinations of the wireless and wired components described herein are also possible to provide both data and voice communications in a phone-based home gateway.

In one embodiment of the present invention, the integrated communications micro-controller 114 includes a StrongARM SA-110, from the Intel Corporation of Santa Clara, California. The StrongARM SA-110 is a high-performance, low-power

processor for portable wireless multi-media devices. However, other or equivalent micro-controllers can also be used and the present invention is not limited to this Intel micro-controller.

The integrated phone-based home gateway interface architecture 100 also includes one or more banks of memory such as synchronous dynamic random access memory ("SDRAM") 116, synchronous mask read only memory ("SMROM") 118, flash memory 120, static RAM ("SRAM") 122 and one or more RS-232 interfaces 124 for connecting serial devices. Memory 116, 118, 120, 122 and RS-232 interfaces 124 are connected to the integrated communications micro-controller 114.

As is known in the art, SDRAM 116 is a form of dynamic random access memory ("DRAM") that can run at higher clock speeds than conventional DRAM. The SDRAM 116 is connected to receive and transmit buffer 102. SMROM 118 is a form of ROM that can be accessed using bit-masks that are typically 32-bits in size. Flash memory 120 is special type of erasable programmable ROM that can be erased and reprogrammed in blocks instead of one byte at a time. SRAM 122 is form of RAM that retains information as long as there is enough power to run a device. The RS-232 interface 124 standard defines specific lines and signal characteristics used by serial communications controllers to standardize the transmission of serial data between devices.

In a typical configuration memory 116, 118, 120, 122 includes memory blocks of 64 Mbytes to 512 Mbytes in size. The memory 116, 118, 120, 122 can be configured using many different types of memory layouts and memory sizes.

The integrated communications micro-controller 114 is connected with one or more high-speed serial ports ("HSSP") 126 or a high-speed serial bus (not illustrated) to a black and white, grey scale or color liquid crystal display ("LCD") component

128 used for the display screen 40, a Bluetooth radio module 130 included in the Bluetooth component 52, an infra data association ("IrDA") module 132, an HPNA module 134 included in the HPNA component 50, one more audio/video CODEC modules 136, and one or more Personal Computer Memory Card International Association ("PCMCIA") interface modules 138.

As is known in the art, the IrDA module 132 is used for synchronizing and transmitting data via infrared light waves and is used to provide one type of short-range wireless connection. The audio/video CODECs 136 are coders/decoders used to convert audio or video signals between analog and digital forms and/or are compressors/decompressors for compressing and decompressing audio and video data.

In one embodiment of the present invention, Motion Pictures Expert Group ("MPEG-2") codecs are used. As is known in the art, MPEG is a set of standards for audio and video compression established by the Joint ISO/IEC Technical Committee on Information Technology. The original MPEG standard for storing and retrieving video and audio information, was designed for CD-ROM technology. MPEG-1 defines data cell encoding for a medium bandwidth of up to 1.5 Mbps, two audio channels, and non-interlaced video. MPEG-2 is an extension of the MPEG-1 standard designed for broadcast television, including HDTV. MPEG-2 defines a higher bandwidth of up to 40 Mbps, five audio channels, a wider range of frame sizes, and interlaced video.

MPEG-2 in general is defined in the ISO/IEC Standard JTC1/SC29/WG11, entitled "Coding of Moving Pictures and Audio," incorporated herein by reference. MPEG-2 is also defined by the ITU-T H.222.0, standard entitled "Generic coding of moving pictures and associated audio information," the contents of which is

incorporated by reference. However, other audio/video data codecs could also be used and the present invention is not limited to the MPEG codecs described.

During an audio/video conferencing call, or a voice call, audio information is typically supplied by audio equipment (e.g., a handset, microphone/speaker, speaker-phone, etc.) that uses an audio codec to capture audio information. For example, such audio codecs are compliant ITU-T G.711, G.722, G.723, G.728 and G.729 standards; the contents of which are incorporated by reference. However, other audio codecs could also be used and the present invention is not limited to such audio codecs.

The one or more PCMCIA interfaces 148 are standard interfaces for small credit-card size peripherals and slots designed to hold them, primarily on laptop, palmtop, and other portable devices including intelligent electronic devices. As is known in the art, PCMCIA interfaces 138 comprises group of manufacturers and vendors who collaborated to promote a common standard for PC Card-based peripherals.

The integrated phone-based home gateway interface architecture 100 system and wireless, integrated phone-based home gateway interface architecture 100' are described with a number of specific components. However, the present invention is not limited to these specific components and more, fewer or equivalent components can also be used in the integrated phone-based home gateway interface architecture 100 and wireless, integrated phone-based home gateway interface architecture 100'.

EXEMPLARY HOME GATEWAY INTERFACE SOFTWARE

ARCHITECTURE

FIG. 7 is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary home gateway interface software architecture 140. The home gateway interface software architecture 140

includes a session manager 142, a service manager 144, an interface manager 146 and a display manager 148. However, more, fewer or equivalent software components can be used and the present invention is not limited to these software components. In FIGS. 7-11, external communications paths, i.e., communications paths external to a component in the software architecture 140 are illustrated with two-way arrows. Internal communications paths, i.e., communications paths internal to a component in the software architecture 140 are illustrated with lines without arrow heads. However, the internal communications path also provide two-way communications.

FIG. 8 is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary session manager 142 of the software architecture 150. The session manager 142 includes a session controller module 152 that sends and receives status information to and from the service manager 144. The session controller module 152 also sends and receives interface information to and from the interface manager 146 and sends and receives data messages to and from the display manager 148. The session controller module 152 also helps initialize data interfaces, such as IP interfaces with cooperation from the provisioning manager module 164 (FIG. 9) in the service manager 144.

The session controller module 152 also sends and receives session control and status information to and from a transport layer 154 that is in communications with a network layer 156.

As is known in the art, the Open Systems Interconnection ("OSI") reference model is a layered architecture that standardizes levels of service and types of interaction for computers exchanging information through a communications network. The OSI reference model separates network device-to-network device communications into seven protocol layers, or levels, each building-and relying-upon the standards contained in the levels below it. The OSI reference model

includes from lowest-to-highest, a physical, data-link, network, transport, session, presentation and application layer. The lowest of the seven layers deals solely with hardware links; the highest deals with software interactions at the application-program level.

5 The transport layer 154 is the fourth of the seven layers in the OSI reference model. The transport layer 154 is typically responsible for both quality of service and accurate delivery of information. Among the tasks performed on this layer are error detection and correction.

10 The transport layer 154 sends and receives transport layer protocol data units ("PDU") to and from the network layer 156. As is known in the art, a PDU is a data packet layout with a header and a data payload. The transport layer 154 also sends and receives session control and status information to and from the session controller module 152 and sends and receives interface control and status information to and from the interface manager 146.

15 The network layer 156 is the third of the seven layers in OSI reference. The network layer 156 is one level above the data-link layer and ensures that information arrives at its intended destination. The network layer 156 sends network layer PDUs to a latency management module 158. The latency management module 158 manages latency of information on the network layer 156. The latency management module 158 sends and receives protocol data units to and from the ADSL ATU-R 20 104 and/or wireless RF module 107.

25 In one embodiment of the present invention, the session controller module 152 provides routing and bridging functionality for networking communications and coordinates initialization of broadband communications service configurations and provisions with the provisioning manager module 164 in the service manager 144

(FIG. 9). In such an embodiment, the session controller module 152 in the session manager 142 initializes and maintains routing and bridging tables for the phone-based home gateway interfaces 36, 80. However, the present invention is not limited to such an embodiment and routing and bridging functionality can also be provided by other hardware or software components in the integrated, phone-based home gateway interfaces 36, 80.

FIG. 9 is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary service manager 144 software architecture 160. The service manager 144 includes a device manager module 162 that sends and receives status information to and from the session manager 142, and sends and receives service and voice information messages to and from the display manager 148.

The device manager module 162 also sends and receives service registration information to and from a provisioning manager module 164. The provisioning manager module 164 sends and receives service initialization information and service session information to and from the PSTN 22 via the POTS telephone module 108. The POTS telephone module 108 helps with service provisioning requests as well as handles voice calls including VoIP via the PSTN 22. The provisioning manager module 164 also sends and receives broadband service session information and data session information to and from the ADSL ATU-R 104 or wireless module 107. The ADSL ATU-R 104 or wireless module 107 also handles data communications via the PSTN 22, the Internet, wireless WAN 94, etc.

As is known in the art, an Asynchronous Transfer Mode ("ATM") system can use high-speed services on ADSL systems as a physical layer to transport data packets. ATM is a high-speed packet transmission system. ATM segments and multiplexes data traffic into small, fixed-length units called "cells." A cell is 53-

octects, with 5-octects for the cell header, and 48-octects for the cell data. ATM provides four service category classes that may use constant bit-rates, variable bit-rates, available bit-rates and unspecified bit-rate services. The four ATM service classes can be used to provide Quality-of-Service ("QoS") functionality. The provisioning manager module 164 is used to set-up ATM virtual channel connections ("VCC") and other types of virtual connections or data sessions.

FIG. 10 is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary interface manger 146 software architecture 166. The interface manager 146 includes an interface module 168. The interface module 168 sends and receives interface information to and from the session manager 142 and sends and receives service messages to and from the display manager 148.

The interface module 168 also sends and receives Bluetooth data and management information to and from a Bluetooth baseband module 170. The Bluetooth baseband module 170 sends and receives Bluetooth radio information to and from the Bluetooth radio module 130. The interface module 168 also sends and receives HPNA data and management information to and from an HPNA interface module 172. The HPNA interface module 172 sends and receives HPNA information to and from HPNA module 134.

FIG. 11 is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary display manger 148 software architecture 174. The display manager 148 includes a content manager module 176. The content manager module 176 sends and receives data messages to and from the session manager 142, sends and receives services and voice messages to and from the service manager 144 and sends and receives service messages to and from the interface manger 146.

The content manager module 176 also sends and receives messages to and from

a LCD display module 178 and a storage handler module 180. The LCD display module 178 sends and receives display messages to and from the LCD module 128. The storage handler module 180 sends and receives storage messages to and from memory 116, 120, 122.

FIGS. 1-5 illustrate exemplary stand-alone integrated phone-based home gateway systems. In many instances however, a home user will already have an existing phone system, and desire to use the functionality of the integrated or wireless, integrated phone-based home gateway systems described herein. In another embodiment of the present invention, the integrated phone-based home gateway system comprises an integrated phone-based home gateway conversion system without a display screen 40, keypad 42, optical video camera 54, etc.

FIG. 12 is a block diagram illustrating an integrated phone-based home gateway conversion system 182. The integrated phone-based home gateway conversion system 182 includes an integrated phone-based home gateway conversion module 184 that is used in combination with an existing phone system 186. In one embodiment of the present invention, the integrated phone-based home gateway conversion module 184 is approximately the same size and shape of the existing phone system 182 and includes multiple RJ-11 jacks 24, a HPNA 50 connector as well as other communications components described above for phone-based home gateway systems 34, 78. The multiple RJ-11 jacks and the HPNA 50 connector allow the existing phone system 186 to be connected to the integrated phone-based home gateway conversion module 184, other devices on LAN 12 in a SOHO network, as well as to the PSTN 22 and/or Internet 24.

Since the integrated phone-based home gateway conversion module 184 is approximately the same size and shape of the existing phone system 182, the

conversion module 184 can be used with an existing phone system 182 without taking up much additional space in the home or office of a home user. The size of the illustrated conversion module 184 is slightly larger than the existing phone system only for the purposes of illustration in the drawing. The integrated phone-based home gateway conversion module 184 includes wired 188 and/or wireless 190 connections as were discussed above for the integrated and wireless integrated home gateway systems 34, 78.

EXEMPLARY HOME GATEWAY INTERFACE INITIALIZATION

FIG. 13 is a flow diagram illustrating a Method 192 for initializing communications from the phone-based home gateway interfaces 36, 80. At Step 194, one or more narrow-band communications channels are automatically established with a public switched telephone network 22 from the phone-based home gateway interfaces 36, 80. At Step 196, one or more broadband communications channels are automatically established with a public switched telephone network 22 from the phone-based home gateway interfaces 36, 80. At Step 198, a data communications interface is automatically initialized for a data network 24 from the phone-based home gateway interfaces 36, 80. At Step 200, routing or bridging tables are automatically initialized on the phone-based home gateway interfaces 36, 80. At Step 202, broadband communications service configurations and provisions are automatically initialized via the phone-based home gateway interfaces 36, 80.

Method 192 helps hide data and broadband configuration and service provisioning complexity from home users by automatically establishing communications channels and providing automatic initialization communications and networking configuration parameters. Method 192 is illustrated with one exemplary embodiment of the present invention. However, the present invention is not limited

to such an embodiment and other or equivalent embodiments can also be used.

In such an embodiment at Step 194, one or more narrow-band communications channel, such as an analog 48 communication channels for POTS 108, are established automatically with the PSTN 22 from the phone-based home gateway interfaces 36, 80.

In one embodiment of the present invention, the narrow-band communications channel is used to provide a conventional wired voice channel, communications channel redundancy, as well as provide automatic broadband service provisioning and configuration. In such an embodiment the narrow-band communications channel is also used to help initialize other components of the phone-based home gateway interfaces 36, 80. However, the present invention is not limited to such an embodiment.

At Step 196, one or more broadband communications channels such as an ADSL 104, ATM over ADSL 104 or other broadband communications channel is established automatically with the PSTN 22. In one embodiment of the present invention, the broadband communications channel is used to provide broadband voice, video or data communications with the PSTN 22 or Internet 24. However, the present invention is not limited to such an embodiment.

At Step 198, a data communications interface is automatically initialized, such as an IP interface, for the Internet 24. The automatic initialization includes initializing network addresses such as IP and other types of network addresses, and initializing data network configuration parameters. The automatic initialization helps hide initialization and configuration complexity from users of the home gateway interfaces.

At Step 200, routing or bridging tables are automatically initialized in the

communications interface 44. As is known in the art, a routing table is a table of information that provides network hardware (bridges and routers) with the directions needed to forward packets of data to locations on other networks. The information included in a routing table differs according to whether it is used by a bridge or a router.

A bridge relies on both a source (i.e., originating) and destination addresses to determine where and how to forward a packet. A router relies on the destination address and on information in the table that gives the possible routes, in hops, or in number of jumps, between itself, intervening routers, and a destination. The routing or bridging tables also provide network address translation ("NAT") for the phone-based home gateway interfaces 36, 80. In one embodiment of the present invention, the routing and bridging tables are initialized by the session manager 142. However, the present invention is not limited to this embodiment and the routing and bridging tables can be initialized by other components or modules in the phone-based home gateway interfaces 36, 80 and/or with or without help from the remote applications.

At Step 202, broadband communications service configurations and provisions are automatically initialized via the phone-based home gateway interfaces 36, 80. In one embodiment of the present invention, the session manager 142 coordinates this task with the provisioning manager module 164 in the service manager 148. However, the present invention is not limited to such an embodiment. The narrow-band communications channel is used to automatically initialize broadband communications services, such as ASDL, ATM, etc. services.

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, Method 192 is practiced with the phone-based home gateway interfaces 36, 80 by sending and receiving 25 telephony initialization and provisioning signals to and from the PSTN 22, and data

protocol initialization sequences to and from the Internet 24; to provision, establish and initialize narrow-band and broadband communications channels and automatically populate routing and bridging tables.

In another embodiment of the present invention, the narrow-band communication channel is used to call a toll free number (e.g., 800, 888; etc.) to establish communications with specialized remote software applications that assist in automatically populating routing and bridging tables and provisioning, establishing and initializing communications channels to/from the phone-based home gateway interfaces 36, 80. In such an embodiment, the remote applications may be included at the local switching office 72 or at some other location on the PSTN 22 or the Internet 24 (e.g., at Aiptech's home site on the Internet).

In such an embodiment, the remote applications specifically help configure and initialize the phone-based home gateway interfaces 36, 80 with two-way dynamic communications any time a home user desires to configure and initialize an interface 36, 80. The dynamic two-way communications over the narrow-band communications channel are used to assist in automatically populating routing and bridging tables; provisioning, establishing and initializing other communications channels to/from the phone-based home gateway interfaces 36, 80.

In another embodiment of the present invention, a remote application may send a static configuration file that is then used by the phone-based home gateway interfaces for automatically populating routing and bridging tables and provisioning, initializing and establishing other communications channels to/from the phone-based home gateway interfaces 36, 80. The configuration file can be dynamically updated by periodically contacting the remote application for updates.

However, the present invention is not limited to such embodiments and other

or equivalent embodiments can also be used. In addition, no remote software applications are necessary to practice preferred embodiments of present invention.

The phone-based home gateway interfaces described herein can be used as broadband home gateway, a wireless local loop home gateway, as well as a set-top box for a cable television access. The phone-based home gateway interfaces are modular, flexible, plug-n-play home gateways. The home gateway interfaces hide routing and bridging table population, data (e.g., IP) and broadband service configuration and provisioning complexity from home users by providing automatic population of routing and bridging tables, establishment of communications channels, initialization and provisioning of communication channel parameters.

It should be understood that the programs, processes, methods and system described herein are not related or limited to any particular type of computer or network system (hardware or software), unless indicated otherwise. Various combinations of general purpose, specialized or equivalent computer components including hardware, software and firmware and combinations thereof may be used with or perform operations in accordance with the teachings described herein.

In view of the wide variety of embodiments to which the principles of the present invention can be applied, it should be understood that the illustrated embodiments are exemplary only, and should not be taken as limiting the scope of the present invention. For example, the steps of the flow diagrams may be taken in sequences other than those described, and more fewer or equivalent elements may be used in the block diagrams.

The claims should not be read as limited to the described order or elements unless stated to that effect. Therefore, all embodiments that come within the scope and spirit of the following claims and equivalents thereto are claimed as the

invention.

WE CLAIM:

1. An integrated phone-based home gateway system providing in-home and to-home networking, comprising in combination:
 - a home gateway interface for initializing broadband communications service configurations and provisions, initializing data communications parameters and for providing routing or bridging for networking communications;
 - a communications interface for connecting to one or more networks, for providing data communications, for providing broadband communications and for providing narrow-band communications including voice communications;
 - 10 a processor for processing information from the one or more networks;
 - a display interface for displaying the information from the one or more networks; and
 - a wireless communications interface for connecting to external wireless devices.
- 15 2. The integrated phone-based home gateway system of Claim 1, further comprising a portable multi-function handset.
3. The integrated phone-based home gateway system of Claim 1, wherein the portable multi-function handset performs the function of at least one of a cordless phone, a mobile phone, a web phone, or a walkie-talkie radio.
- 20 4. The integrated phone-based home gateway system of Claim 1, wherein the communication interface includes a speaker-phone.

5. The integrated phone-based home gateway system of Claim 1, wherein the communication interface includes a digital subscriber line ("DSL") device and an analog modem.

5 6. The integrated phone-based home gateway system of Claim 5, wherein the DSL device includes an asymmetric digital subscriber line ("ADSL") device, symmetric DSL ("SDSL") device, high-bit-rate DSL ("HDSL") device or very-high-bit-rate ("VDSL") device.

10 7. The integrated phone-based home gateway system of Claim 1, wherein the communication interface includes voice communications using Plain Old Telephone Service ("POTS") or Voice over Internet Protocol ("VoIP") channels.

15 8. The integrated phone-based home gateway system of Claim 1, further comprising:

at least one module for interfacing with an external device.

9. The integrated phone-based home gateway system of Claim 8, wherein the external device includes a desk-top computer, lap-top computer, notebook computer, 20 a home security device, a mobile phone, a personal digital assistant, a Internet Protocol-based home appliance, a printer, a facsimile machine, a video camera, or a scanner.

25 10. The integrated phone-based home gateway system of Claim 8, wherein the at least one module for interfacing with an external device includes an RJ-11

module, a peripheral component interconnect ("PCI") module, a Universal Serial Bus ("USB") module, a home phoneline network adapter ("HPNA") module, a Personal Computer Memory Card International Association ("PCMCIA") interface module, a Bluetooth module, an infra data association ("IrDA") module, or a wireless interface module.

11. The integrated phone-based home gateway system of Claim 1, further comprising one or more modular plug-and-play interfaces.

10 12. The integrated phone-based home gateway system of Claim 1, wherein the display interface comprises a removable display unit.

13. The integrated phone-based home gateway system of Claim 12, wherein the removable display unit interfaces with the home gateway interface through a wireless infrared or a wireless radio frequency communications interface.

14. The integrated phone-based home gateway system of Claim 1, wherein the display interface displays and accesses voice, video and data messages.

20 15. The integrated phone-based home gateway system of Claim 14 wherein the data messages include Internet Protocol messages or e-mail messages.

16. The integrated phone-based home gateway system of Claim 1 wherein the display interface displays a graphical representation of a keypad.

25

17. The integrated phone-based home gateway system of Claim 1, wherein the display interface displays at least one line of real-time stock quote, weather, headline news, community news, or electronic address information from the Internet.

⁵ See also the discussion of the relationship between the two in the introduction.

18. The integrated phone-based home gateway system of Claim 1, further comprising a keypad.

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19. The integrated phone-based home gateway system of Claim 18, wherein
10 the keypad is a graphical representation of a key pad on the display, a numeric key
pad, an alpha-numeric key pad or a keyboard.

²⁰ The integrated phone-based home gateway system of Clari

comprising at least one video camera, a computer, and a monitor, and a second computer system comprising at least one video camera, a computer, and a monitor.

15 | P a g e

21. The integrated phone-based home gateway system of Claim 1 wherein the one or more networks include a public switched telephone network, a regional broadband network, or the Internet.

²⁰ 22. The integrated phone-based home gateway system of Clair

the wireless communication interface includes an infrared or radio frequency wireless communication interface.

23. The integrated phone-based home gateway system of Claim 1,

wireless communication interface includes a Bluetooth protocol based interface; a

Shared Wireless Access Protocol based interface or a Wireless Application Protocol based interface.

24. The integrated phone-based home gateway system of Claim 1 wherein
5 the wireless communication interface includes a short-range wireless communication interface for connecting to external wireless network devices on a wireless piconet.

25. The integrated phone-based home gateway system of Claim 1 wherein the
10 wireless communication interface includes a long-range wireless communication interface for connecting to external wireless network devices on a wireless wide area network.

26. The integrated phone-based home gateway system of Claim 22 wherein
the wireless communication interface includes a long-range and a short-range radio
15 frequency wireless communication interface.

27. The integrated phone-based home gateway system of Claim 1, further comprising a computer readable medium having stored therein a plurality of computer software modules with a plurality of instructions executable by the
20 processor, including:

a session manager module for controlling an information session from the one or more networks, controlling a service manager module, controlling an interface manager module, controlling a display manager module and for automatically populating routing and bridging tables and providing routing or bridging for
25 networking communications;

a service manager module for controlling the communications interface and the wireless communication interface, and initializing broadband communications service configurations and provisions and initializing data communications parameters;

5 an interface manager module for controlling interface modules to external devices; and

a display manager module for controlling the display interface and the display of information from the one or more networks.

10 11.28. An integrated phone-based home gateway system providing in-home and to-home networking, comprising in combination:

a home gateway interface for initializing broadband communications service configurations and provisions and for providing routing or bridging for networking communications; and a removable display unit for displaying the information from the one or more networks.

15 a communications interface for connecting to one or more networks; wherein the communications interface includes a digital subscriber line (“DSL”) device and an analog modem;

a processor for processing information from the one or more networks;

a removable display unit for displaying the information from the one or more networks for accessing and displaying voice, video or data messages;

a key pad for entering alpha-numeric data;

a home phone line network adapter (“HPNA”) module;

a Bluetooth module for interfacing with wireless devices using the Bluetooth wireless protocol;

25 a portable multi-function wireless handset for performing cordless phone, a

- mobile phone, a web phone, or walkie-talkie radio functions; .
- one or more short-range or long-range wireless interfaces for interfacing with external wireless devices;
- one or more RJ-11 interface jacks;
- 5 at least one modular plug-and-play interface for interfacing with other external devices; and
- an optional video camera for sending and receiving video data to and from the one or more networks.
- 10 29. The integrated phone-based home gateway system of Claim 28, further comprising a computer readable medium having stored therein a plurality of computer software modules with a plurality of instructions executable by the processor, including:
- a session manager module for controlling an information session from the one or more networks; controlling a service manager module, controlling an interface manager module, controlling a display manager module, and for automatically populating routing and bridging tables and providing routing or bridging for networking communications;
- 15 a service manager module for controlling the communications interface and the wireless communication interface, and initializing broadband communications service configurations and provisions, and initializing data communications parameters;
- 20 an interface manager module for controlling interface modules to external devices; and
- 25 a display manager module for controlling the display interface and the display

of information from the one or more networks.

30. In integrated phone-based home gateway system conversion system for connecting to existing phone systems, providing in-home and to-home networking, comprising in combination:

a home gateway interface for initializing broadband communications service configurations and provisions and for providing routing or bridging for networking communications;

10 a communications interface for connecting to one or more networks, for providing data communications, for providing broadband communications and for providing narrow band communications including voice communications;

a processor for processing information from the one or more networks;

15 a wireless communications interface for connecting to external wireless devices; a home phone line network adapter ("HPNA") module; and one or more RJ-11 interface jacks.

31. The integrated phone-based home gateway system conversion system of Claim 30, further comprising a computer readable medium having stored therein a plurality of computer software modules with a plurality of instructions executable by 20 the processor, including:

a session manager module for controlling an information session from the one or more networks, controlling a service manager module, controlling an interface manager module, controlling a display manager module and for automatically populating routing and bridging tables and providing routing or bridging for 25 networking communications;

a service manager module for controlling the communications interface and the wireless communication interface, and initializing broadband communications service configurations and provisions and initializing data communications parameters; and further comprising:
5 an interface manager module for controlling interface modules to external devices; and
a display manager module for controlling the display interface and the display of information from the one or more networks.

10 Claim 32. A method for initializing an integrated phone-based home gateway system, comprising:
establishing one or more narrow-band communications channels with a public switched telephone network from the integrated phone-based home gateway system;
15 establishing one or more broadband communications channels with a public switched telephone network from the integrated phone-based home gateway system;
initializing a data communications interface for a data network from the integrated phone-based home gateway system;
initializing routing or bridging tables on integrated phone-based home
20 gateway system; and
initializing broadband communications service configurations and provisions from the integrated phone-based home gateway system.

25 Claim 33. The method of Claim 32 further comprising computer readable medium having stored therein instructions for causing a processor to execute the steps of the

method.

34. The method of Claim 32 wherein the step of establishing one or more narrow-band communications channel includes establishing a plain old telephone service (“POTS”) channel or a Voice-over-Internet Protocol (“VoIP”) channel.

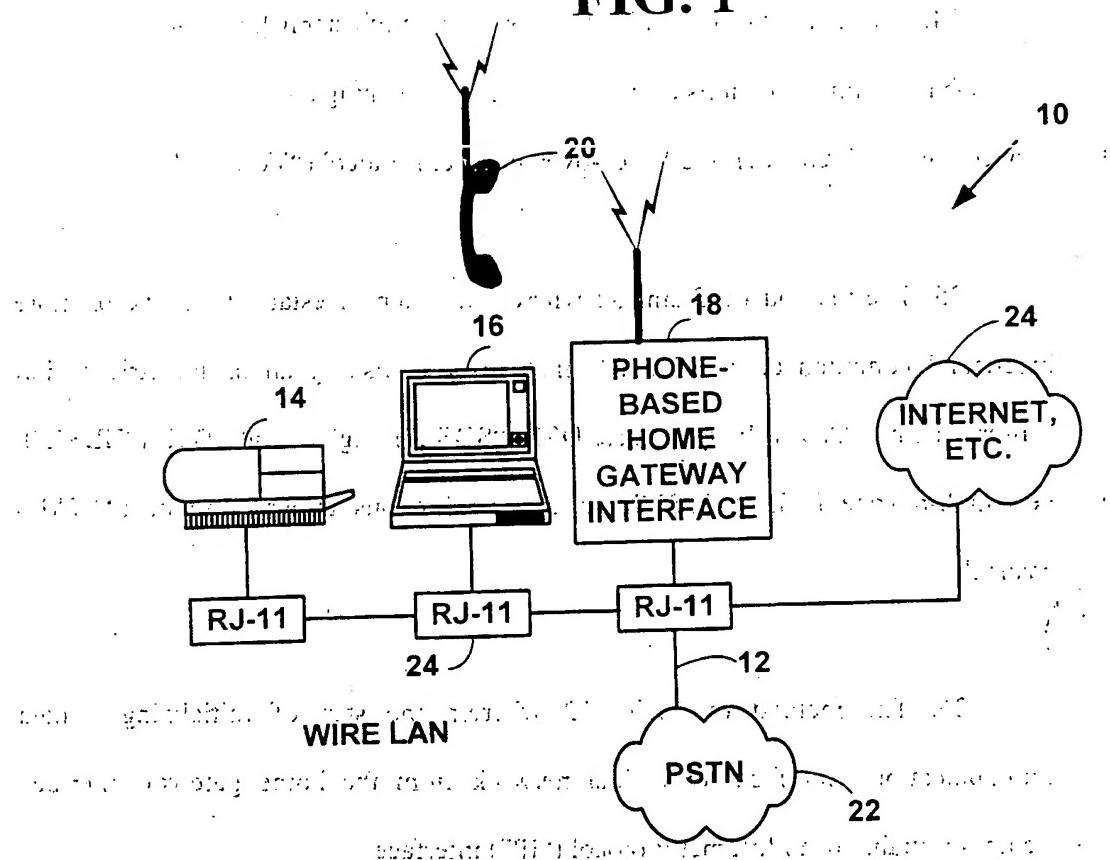
35. The method of Claim 32 wherein the step of establishing one or more broadband communications channels includes establishing an asymmetric digital subscriber line ("ADSL"), symmetric DSL ("SDSL"), high-bit-rate DSL ("HDSL"), very-high-bit-rate DSL ("VDSL") or an asynchronous transport mode ("ATM") channel.

36. The method of Claim 32 wherein the step of initializing a data communications interface for a data network from the home gateway interface includes initializing an Internet Protocol (“IP”) interface.

37. The method of Claim 32 wherein the step of initializing broadband communications service configurations and provisions via the home gateway interface includes initializing asymmetric digital subscriber line (“ADSL”),
20 symmetric DSL (“SDSL”), high-bit-rate DSL (“HDSL”) very-high-bit-rate DSL (“VDSL”) or asynchronous transport mode (“ATM”) service configurations and provisions.

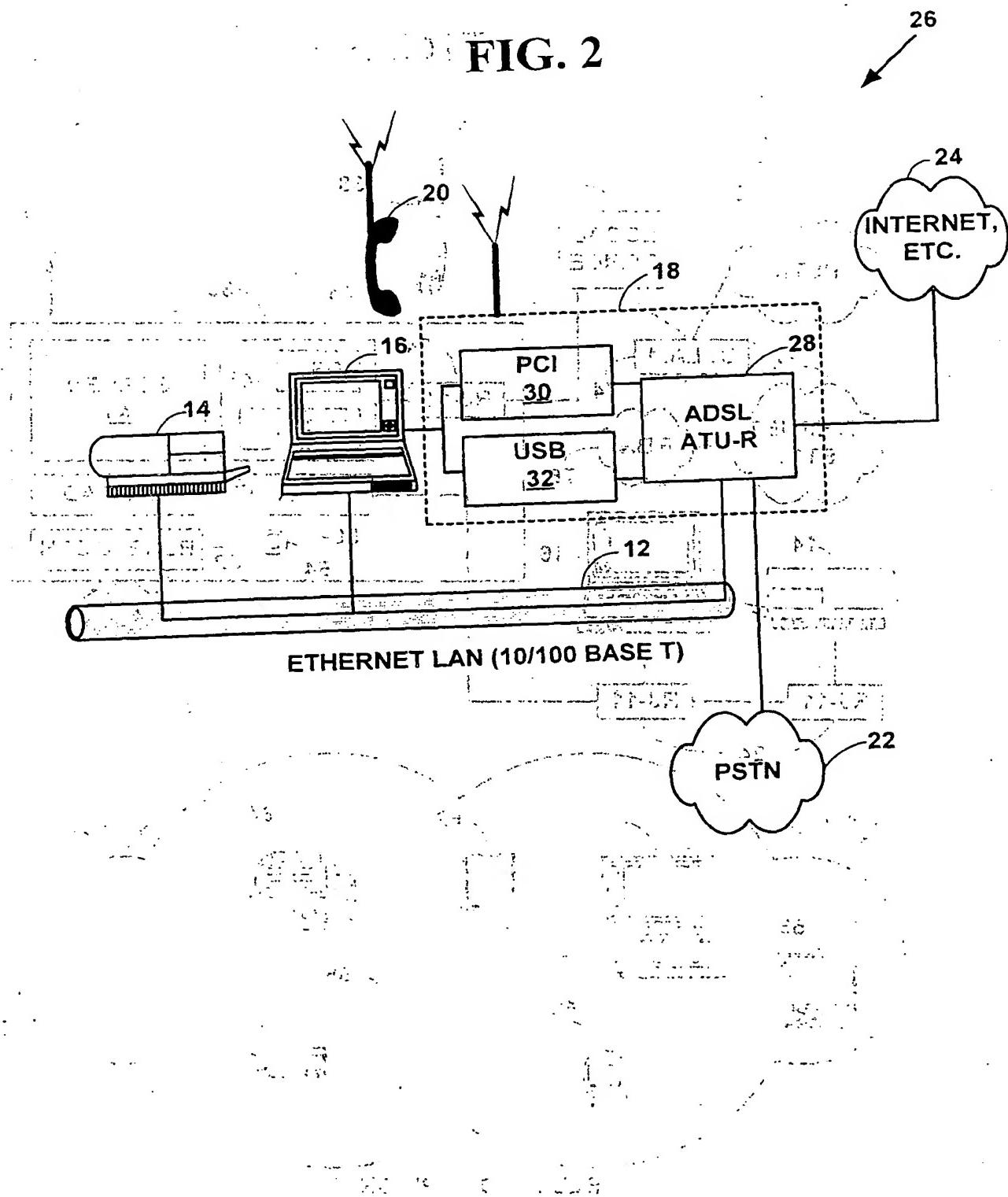
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FIG. 1



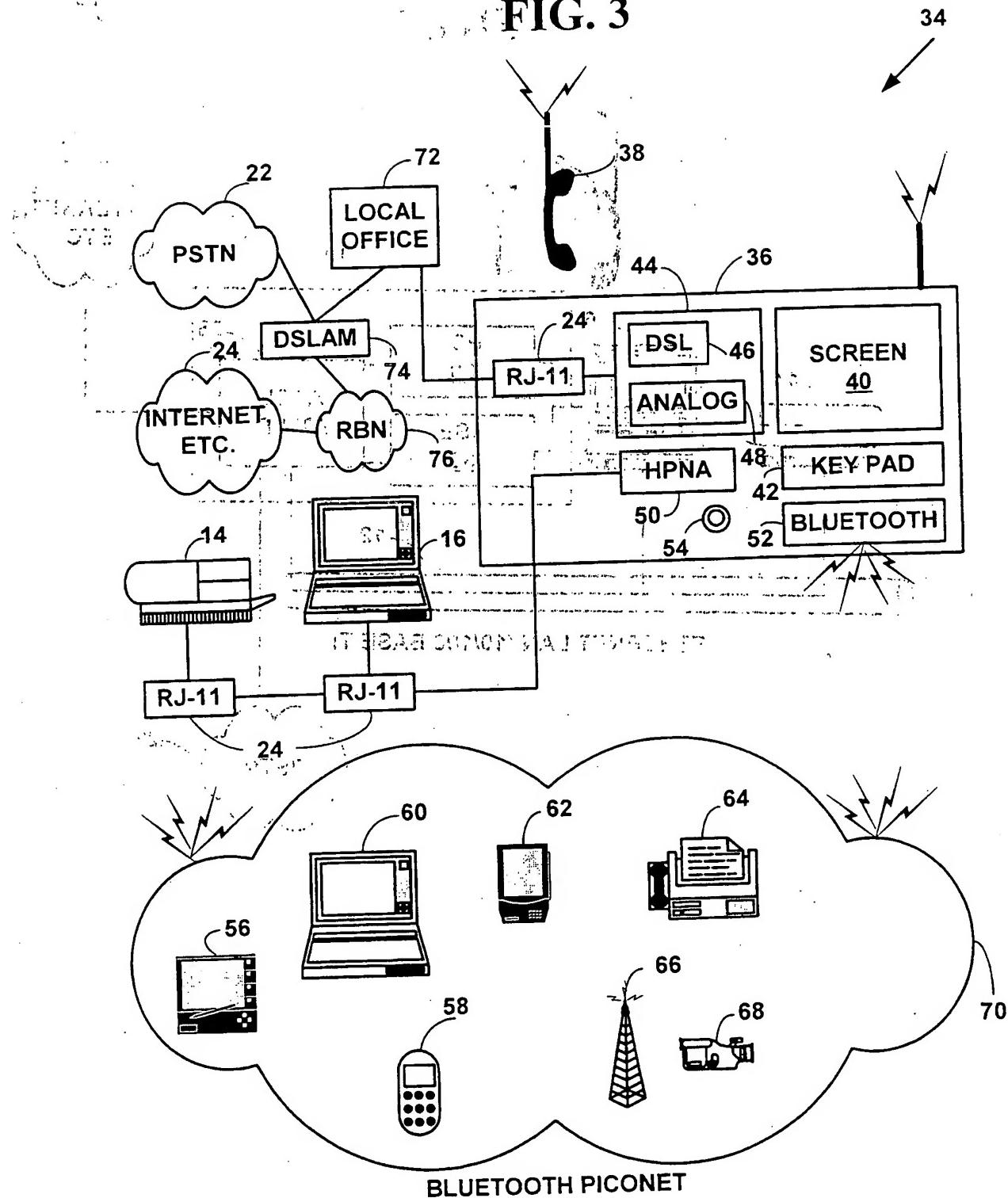
2/14

FIG. 2



3/14

FIG. 3



4 / 14

FIG. 4

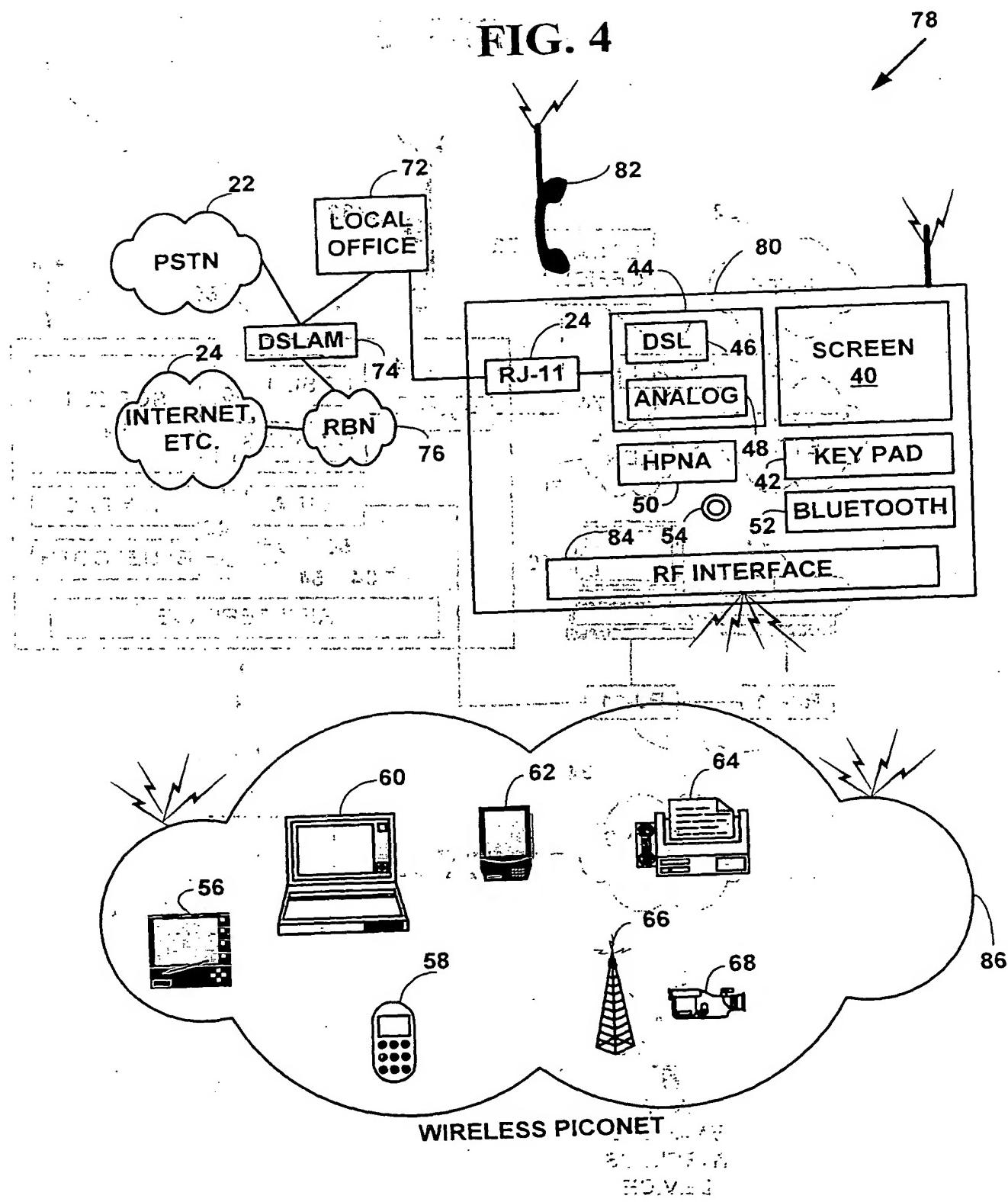
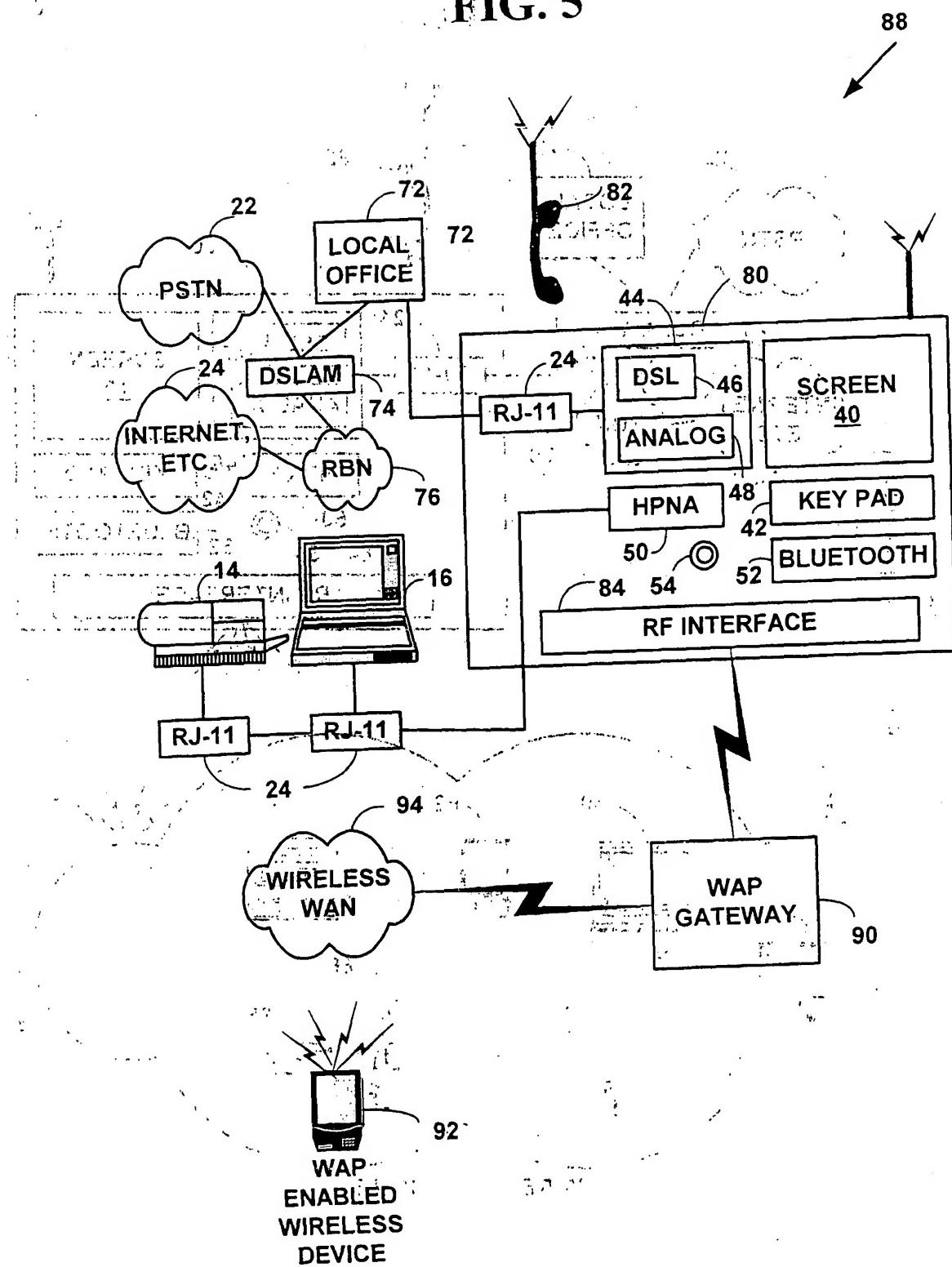


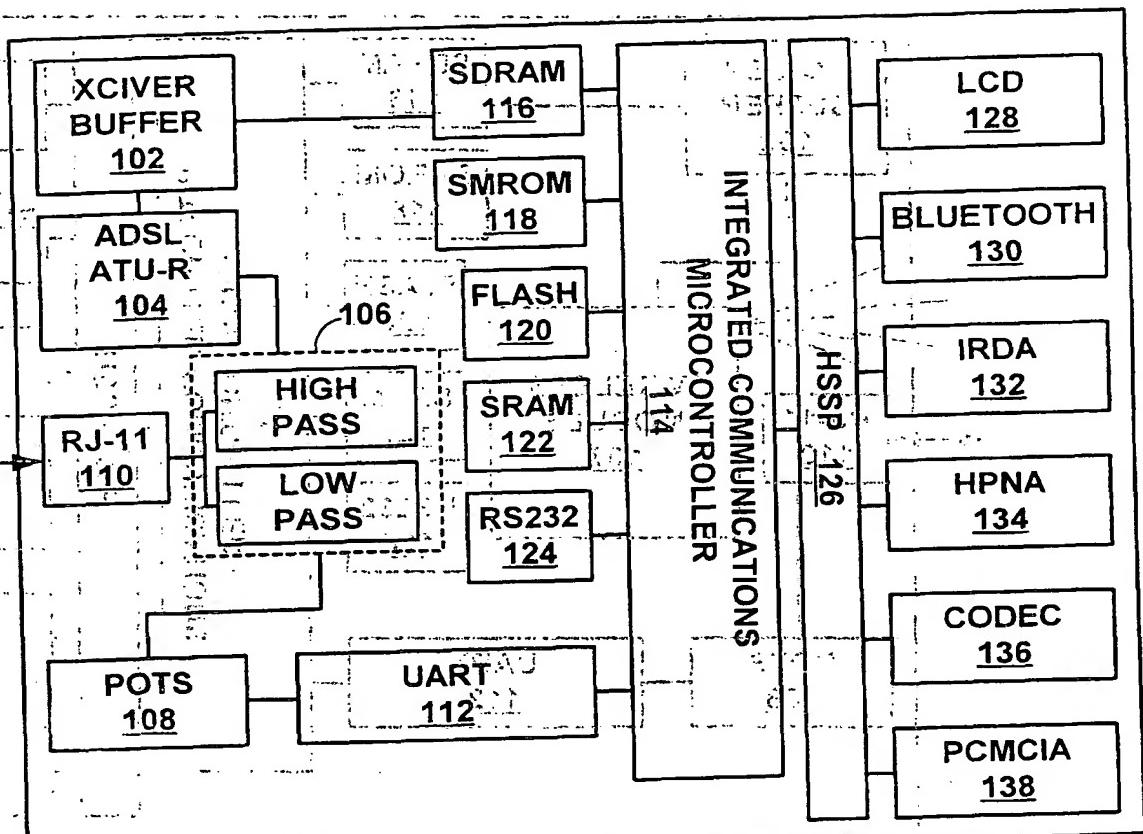
FIG. 5



6/14

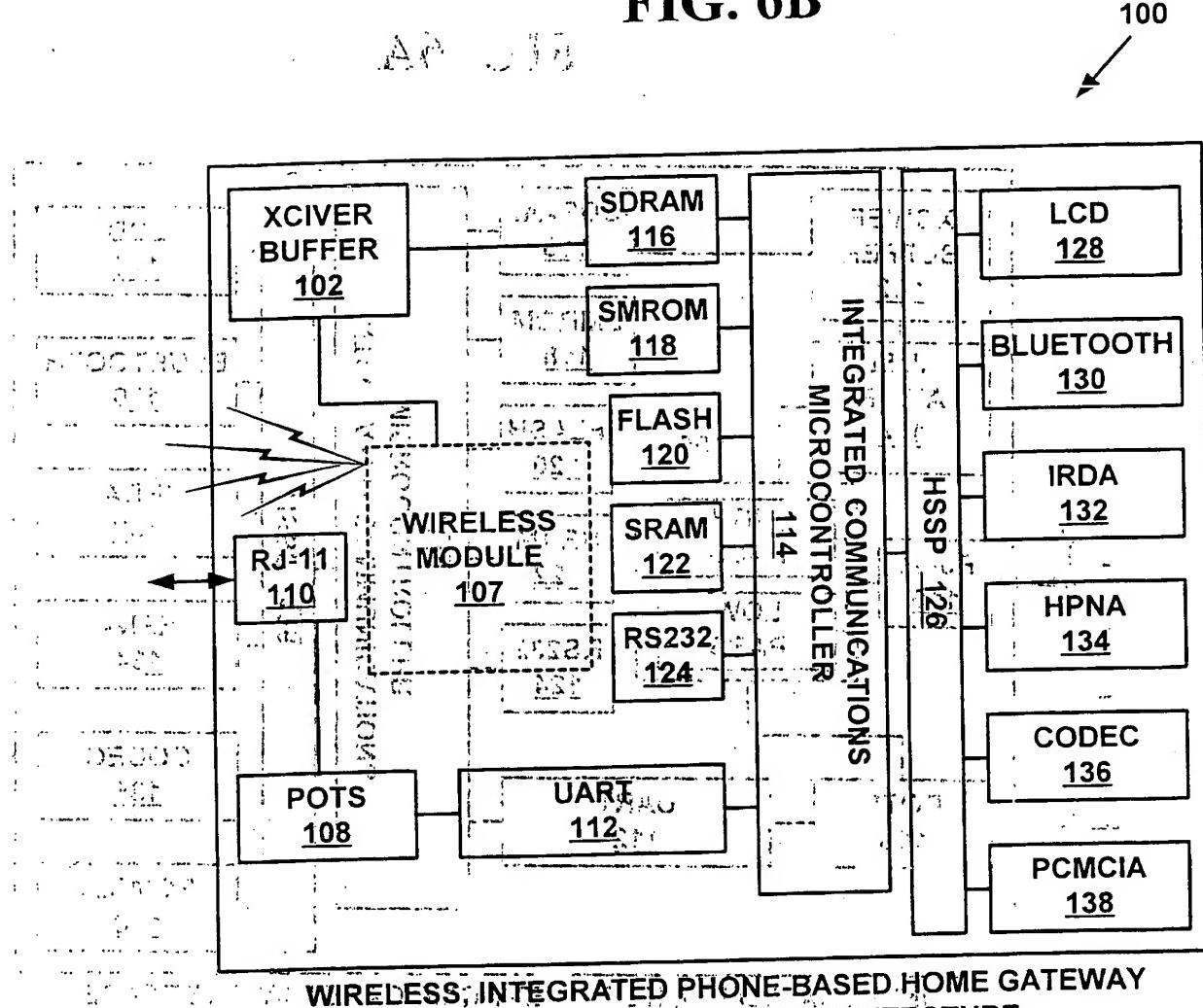
FIG. 6A

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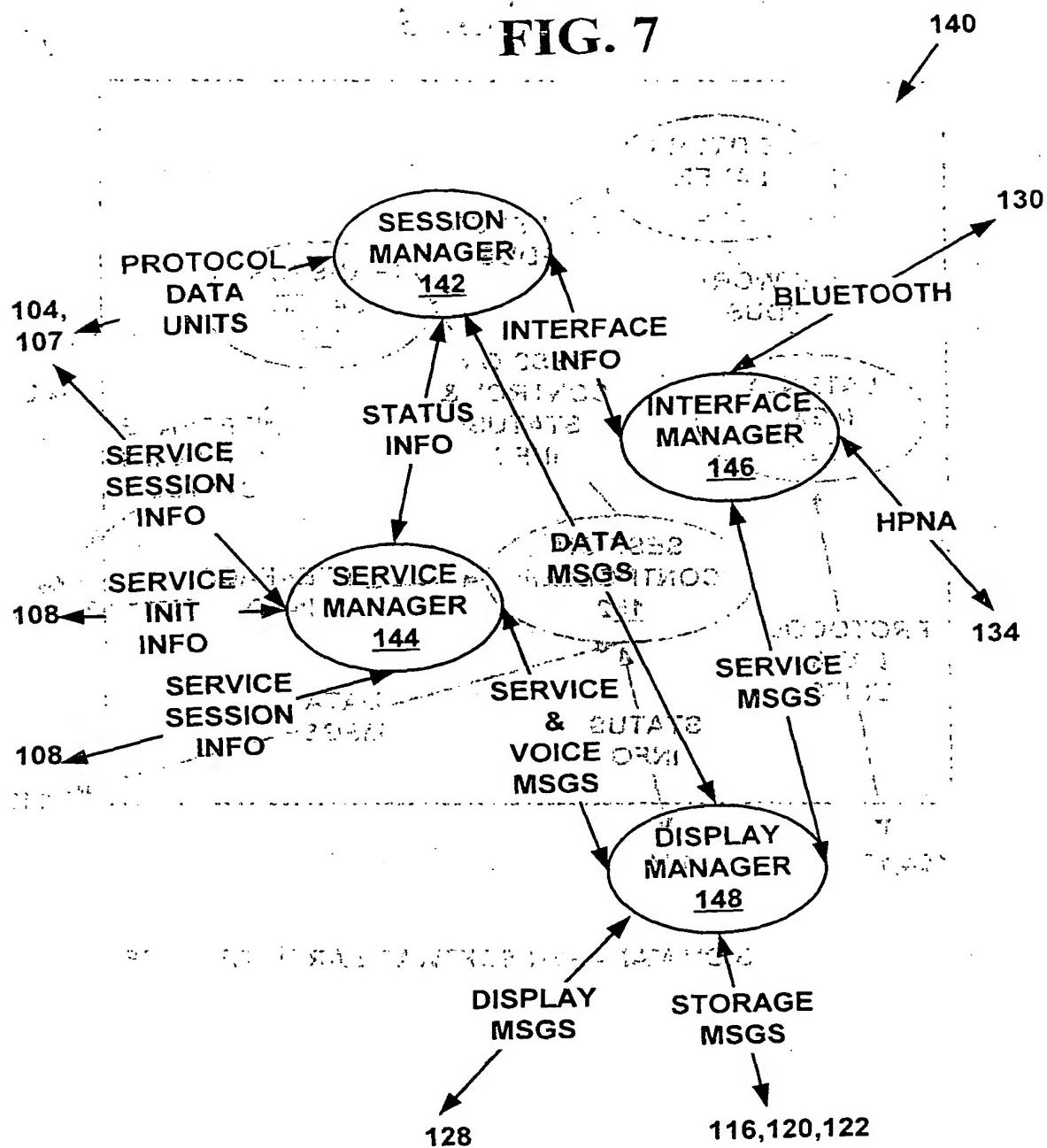
INTEGRATED PHONE-BASED HOME GATEWAY INTERFACE
HARDWARE ARCHITECTURE

7/14

FIG. 6B

8/14

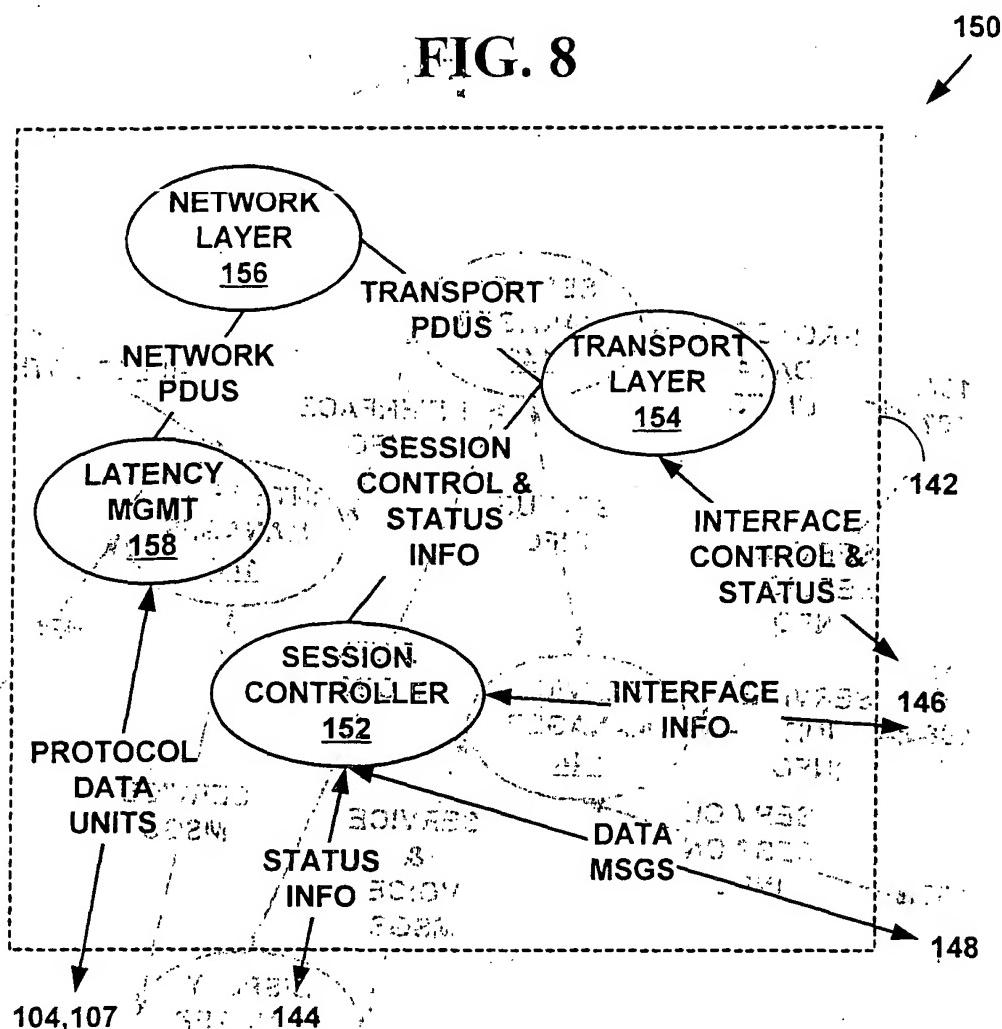
FIG. 7



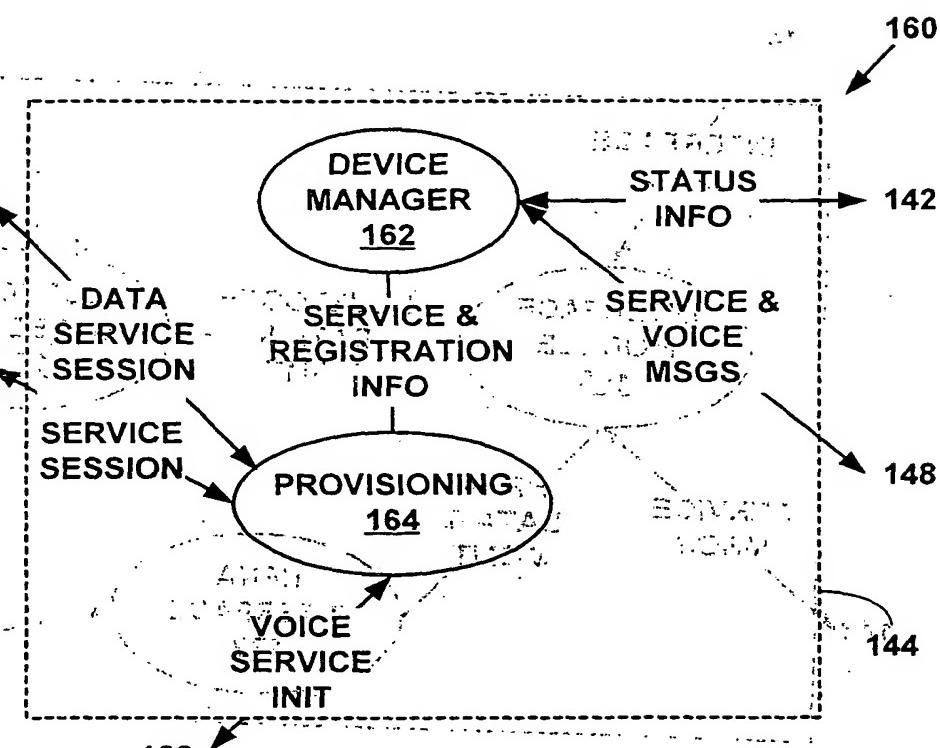
INTEGRATED PHONE-BASED HOME GATEWAY INTERFACE
SOFTWARE ARCHITECTURE

9/14

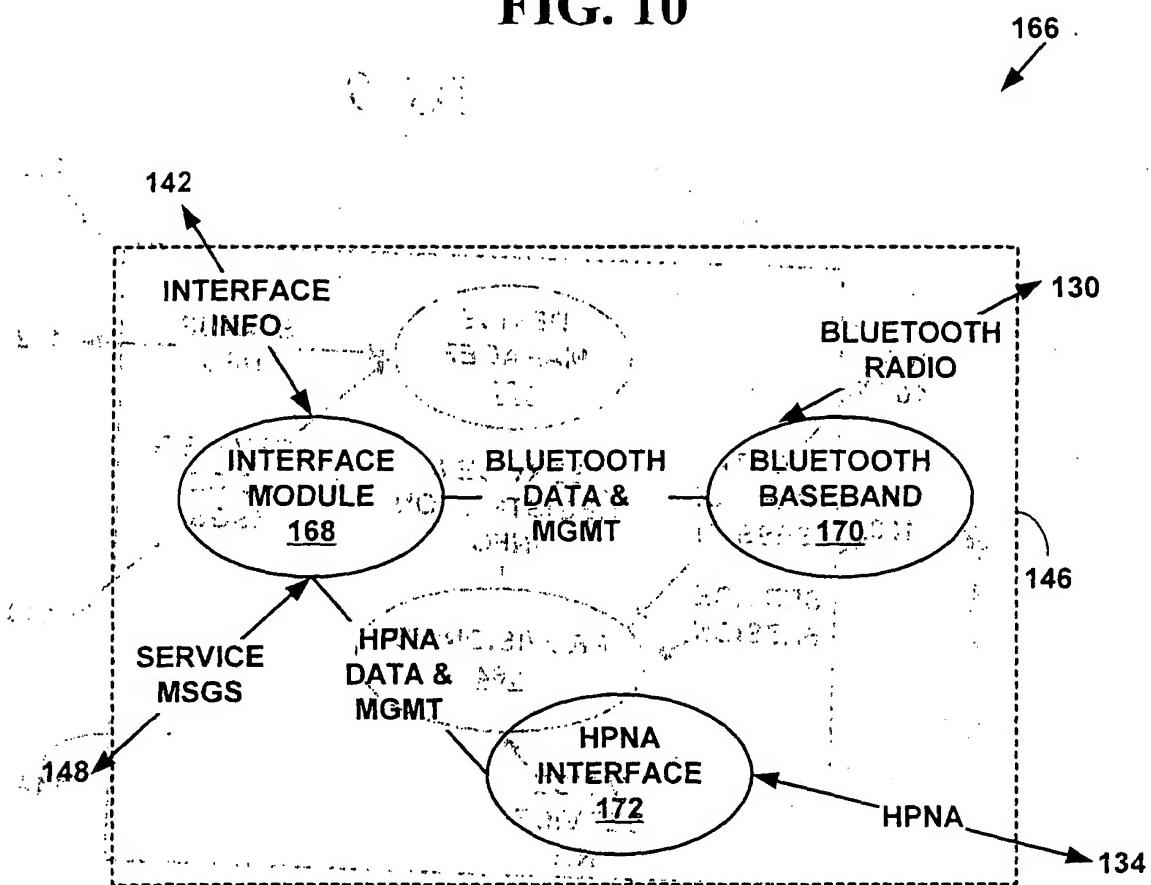
FIG. 8

**SESSION MANAGER SOFTWARE ARCHITECTURE**

10/14

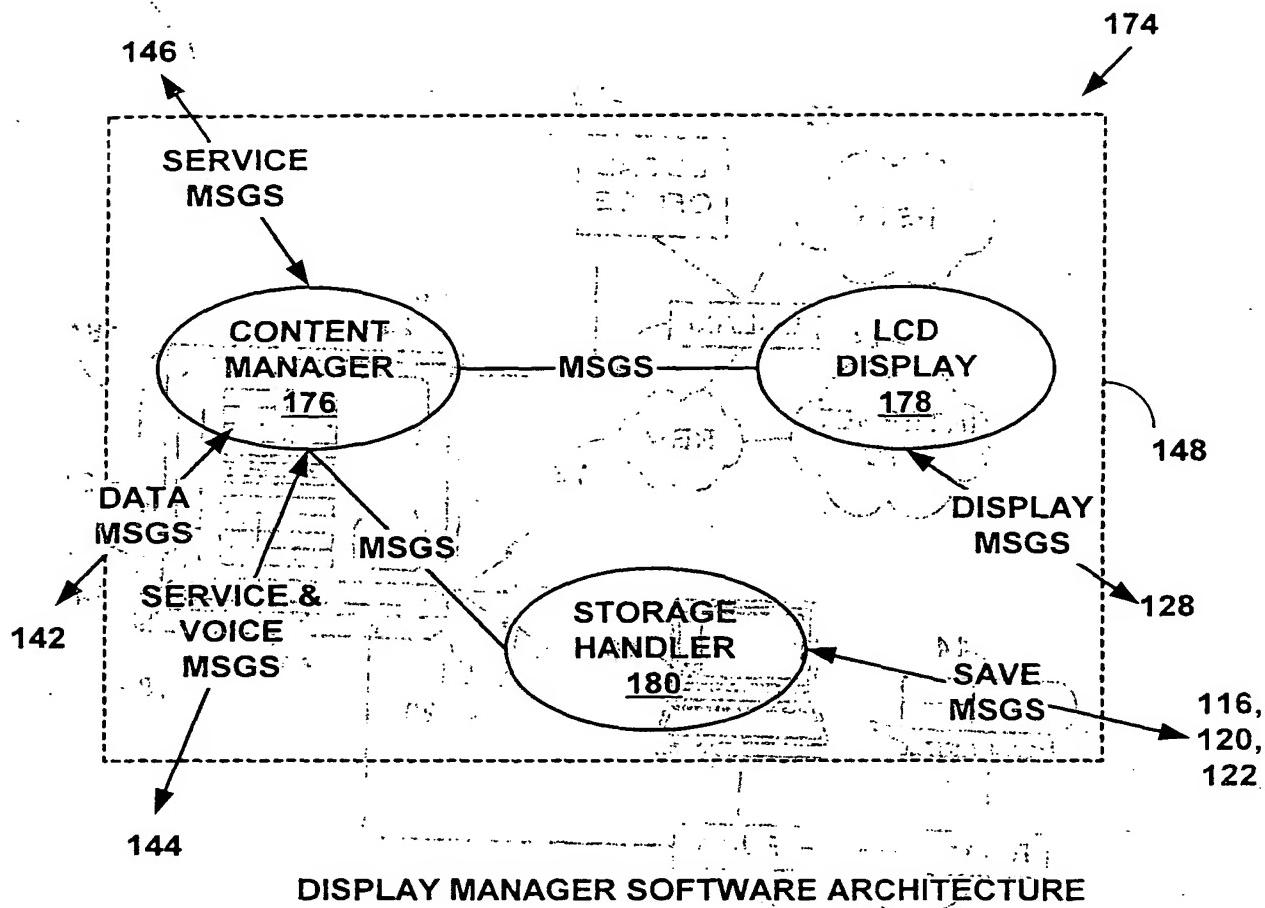
FIG. 9**SERVICE MANAGER SOFTWARE ARCHITECTURE**

11/14

FIG. 10**INTERFACE MANAGER SOFTWARE ARCHITECTURE**

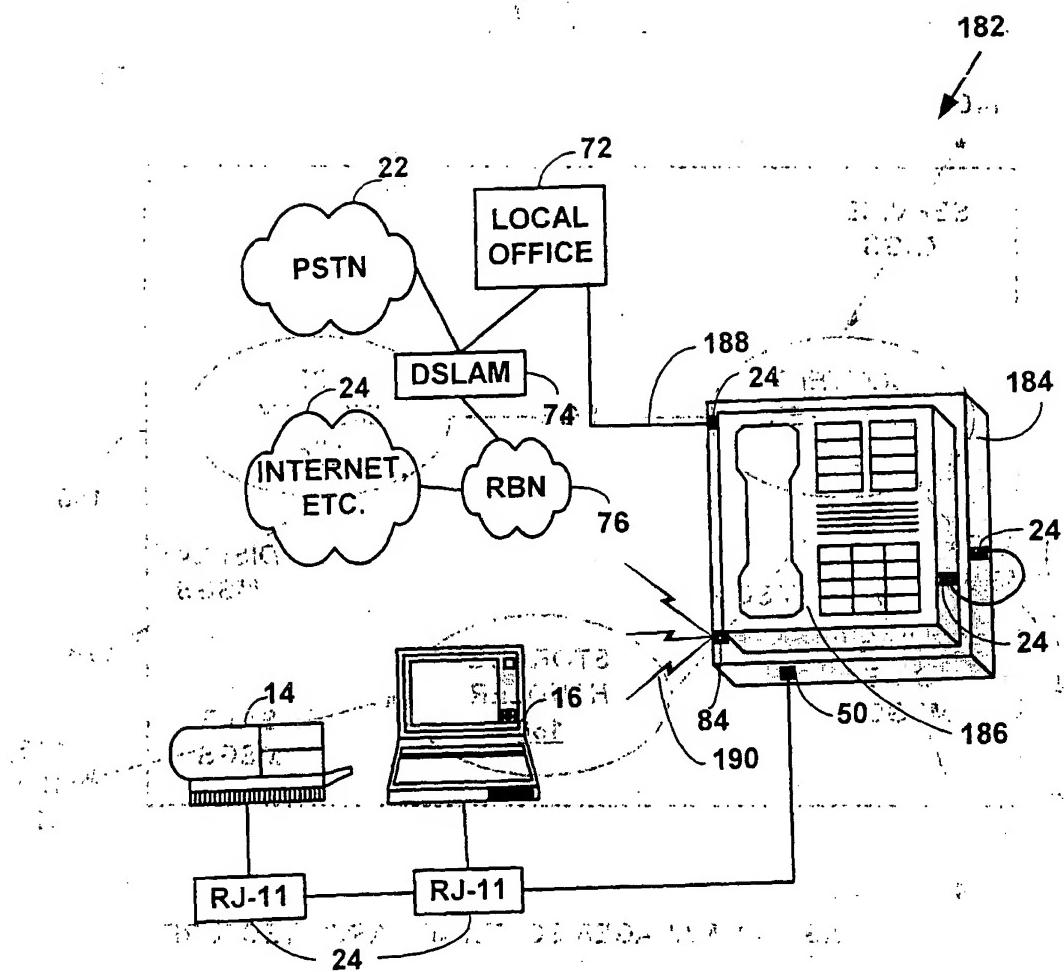
12/14

FIG. 11



13/14

FIG. 12



14/14

FIG. 13